



Letters to my
CHRISTIAN PARENT
ABOUT ISLAM



by Dawud Adib



THE RIWAYAH DA'WAH SERIES

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May Allāh, The Most High, reward everyone who assisted in this humble effort. We ask Allāh by His Beautiful Names and Lofty Attributes to allow this book to be knowledge from which the people benefit until the Day of Judgment.

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Publisher's Note

Indeed all praise belongs to Allah (God), the Most Merciful, the Most Generous, the One Who is able to do all things. He created Adam without a father or mother, and created Jesus without a father. He is the Creator of the Angels, the Jinn, the birds in the sky, and the creatures of the sea. He is the Creator of all things. I testify that none deserves to be worshipped but Him Alone, and that Muhammad is His Last Messenger whom He sent as a mercy to all the worlds, a guide, a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings. I testify that Jesus is the son of Mary, not the son of God. He is not God, nor is he similar to God in any way. Rather, he is an honorable Prophet, a righteous Messenger, a wise teacher, a humble servant, and an example for the Children of Israel. Believing in him is obligatory, slandering him is blasphemy, and worshipping him is polytheism: the most abhorrent of sins with God. Allah sent this Noble Messenger inviting his people to worship one God, not three. Allah says in the Qur'an:

"Surely, they have disbelieved who say: 'Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary.' But the Messiah said: 'O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.' Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the polytheists there are no helpers. Surely, disbelievers are those who said: 'Allah is the third of the three (in a Trinity).' But there is no god who has the right to be worshipped but One (God—Allah). And if they cease not from what they say, verily, a painful torment will befall the disbelievers among them." [Al-Ma'idah 5:72-73]

Allah also mentions that on the Day of Resurrection He will say:

“O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say unto men: ‘Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah?’ He will say: ‘Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my inner-self though I do not know what is in Yours; truly, You, only You, are the All-Knower of all that is hidden and unseen. Never did I say to them aught except what You (Allah) did command me to say: ‘Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.’”

[Al-Ma'idah 5:116-117]

A few years ago one of our Muslim brothers was lamenting the death of his mother. He expressed to us that that which he regretted the most was his negligence in teaching her about the Religion of Islam. He said he needed help in clarifying Islam to his family and that he wasn't proficient in teaching them about the beauty and truthfulness of this religion. He expressed that he felt a sense of guilt that he wasn't able to clarify the tenets of Islam to his mom in a simple, comprehensive way.

Eventually, he suggested that Riwayah™ publishes a book which would explain Islam to our Christian parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and coworkers in a simple fashion. He suggested that the book be in the form of letters in which the reader would feel as if they were being spoken to directly. He mentioned how the Prophet Muhammad sent letters to the kings of his time calling them to pure monotheism, and that Prophet Solomon wrote to the Queen of Sheba inviting her to submit to Allah, the Lord of the Universe. Likewise, all throughout Islamic History,

Muslim scholars have written letters to relatives, politicians, religious leaders, and laymen clarifying the Islamic Belief. Allah has guided countless people to the Straight Path after a letter had reached them from a Muslim, sometimes from a relative and other times a concerned neighbor.

Many generations have learned about Islam by means of letters. Hasan al-Basri wrote to King Umar bin Abdul-Aziz, Ibn Tamiyyah wrote to his mother from prison, Muhammad bin Abdul-Wahhab wrote to the people of Shaqraa, Sudayr, Riyadh, Yemen, and Morocco. Dr. Rabi bin Hadi wrote to the Shaikh of Azhar University, the Pope in Vatican City, and the Muslims of France, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, and Yemen. Many have written letters and many have benefited from this classical technique of conveying information. So it's clear that letters have always been an affective, personal, warm, and intimate way of conveying information. So after much brainstorming, we agreed that our elder brother Dawud Adib would be an excellent choice to take on such a task.

Dawud Adib was born to a very religious Christian extended family. His maternal grandfather's name was Moses, while the grand uncles and aunts many, if not all, possessed biblical names. As a Muslim, Allah blessed him to be able to study with many Scholars throughout the world: scholars from Egypt, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia. He has also spent decades learning about the Christian religion. Thus, he is well aware of both religions—Islam and Christianity.

So Riwayat™ contacted Dawud Adib, describing to him the idea of writing a book entitled *Letters to My Christian Parents about Islam*. He was elated and overjoyed about the concept of compiling a work that could potentially help to clarify Islam to our Christian relatives, and if Allah wills, may even be a reason for their guidance. Dawud

commenced his work on this project in the summer of 2014 and finished in February of 2015.

This book between your hands, dear reader, is a combination of profound letters from a son to his mother. We hope that Muslims around the world will benefit from these letters, and that these letters would assist them in teaching their own families about this wonderful religion of Islam. We hope that this book will be an added benefit to the English Islamic Library and a means by which our relatives can understand true Islam, far removed from stereotypes, fallacies, and false propaganda.

My success is only with Allah; upon Him Alone I depend.

And to Him Alone I turn in repentance.

The Publisher

Letter 1

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Mom... I love You

To my beloved mother—along with my Father who has now departed from this life—who cultivated me when I was a child. To my much-loved mother who cherished me and sustained me when I was young, who protected me from the apparent evils of society with her knowledge, insight, foresight and wisdom, so that I would not succumb to the wiles of Satan. To you who, when I became sick, made sure that I received the best medical care you could afford. To you, my dearly loved mother, who provided me with a good education that would prepare me for adulthood. You who attempted to guide me with what you believed to be the best way according to your beliefs and religious convictions. I say here and now from the bottom of my heart—and with Allah (God) as my witness—that I really, truly appreciate everything that you have done for me.

And even though at times I have caused you sleepless nights, loss of money, or even physical pain, I ask Allah, the One True God worthy of worship, besides Whom there is no deity worthy of worship, to forgive me for that. Then I ask you to forgive me for any wrong, harm, inconvenience, hardship, anguish, frustration, anxiety, sadness, mental or physical pain or financial loss I may have caused you. I ask Him to guide you and reform you.

For a while now, I've been wanting to talk to you in more depth about my newly embraced religion, but I have been a little timid, since you are my mother and I am your child. And in view of the fact that the child does not and will never have the rank of the parents, there is naturally a slight apprehension, given that you are my "worldly origin." Nevertheless, you should know—and may Allah guide you—that this religion of Islam is the true religion of all the Prophets and Messengers sent to mankind from the beginning of time and since the existence of the first man himself, Adam.

Although it is probably the most misunderstood religion in the world, it is the only religion, without a doubt, that provides the best understanding of how to reach the desired goal and intended purpose of being created, which is the worship of One, True God in the most perfect way. Perhaps when I embraced Islam as my new religion, you felt as though I was abandoning the religion of my forefathers, and you probably said to yourself:

"How could he do such a thing: leave the religion of his parents, grandparents, maybe even his great-grandparents? What would make him abandon this beautiful, loving, peaceful religion of Christianity for a religion that teaches that God doesn't have a son who died for all the sins of mankind? What would make him turn to a religion that teaches you that we—as wretched, sinful, unclean human beings—can go directly to God without an intercessor, and that Muhammad has taken the place of Jesus?! A religion that teaches so much hate and enjoins upon its followers to even kill people who do not believe in what they believe?! How could he embrace a religion that teaches that white people are a race of devils and that there is no good in them? What would

make him accept a faith that would make him strap a suicide bomb to himself and blow up a bus of innocent children or a building containing civilians?!”

So with that, I say to you my dear mother—as I used to say to Daddy when he was alive: it is now time for you to know exactly what is the religion of all of the Prophets and Messengers of the distant past, the true religion that God chose for humanity which is the perfected, tailor-made religion of Islam. I begin with that which is the most integral, important, foundational pillar of my religion, Islam: the belief in the Unique Oneness of God (Allah) and how it differs from any and every other religious belief presently known to mankind pertaining to the Lord of the all the Universe.

Many, if not most, of the world religions profess that there is only one God, and when the adherents of those religions are questioned about that, they will almost always respond, “I believe in ONE GOD, The Almighty.” But upon further investigation and deconstruction of the most basic tenets of their creed, one will quickly notice that their understanding of true monotheism is flawed. So let us begin with the most important subject: the nature of God.

In the Qur’an there are some verses that ask the rhetorical question:

“Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain.”

[At-Tur 52:35-36]

Mom, if you reflect deeply upon these verses, you will notice that everything that exists has a beginning. Without doubt this Universe could have only come about in one of three possible ways: either it was produced by no means at all

(i.e., it came from nothingness), it is self-created, or it has an originator that is uniquely distinct from all other things that exist, dead or alive. This is of course implied in the two aforementioned verses, especially since the verses are speaking to those people of the distant past and today, who—unlike you my beloved parent—reject the existence of an originator, creator, fashioner, designer, the One True, omnipotent God. You and I are very thankful to God that we have not been tested with the despicable belief that He does not exist. Therefore, we can deduce that the Lord of the Universe has to be totally distinct from that which He created. He must have a different nature from those other things He has originated. He must be totally different in His nature from those creatures He created. He must necessarily be totally distinct from everything that exists. Thus, we have two types of “creatures,” but one of them has qualities that may be similar, while the Creator, Originator, and Fashioner possesses many, many unique distinctions from that which He created; because if He is the same or even shares in just one of the qualities of the other creatures, then He ceases to be distinct and unique. He ceases to be exclusive. He ceases to be holy. He ceases to be divine.

My dear mother, if He is of the same nature as His creatures, he will have to be temporal. If He is temporal, then He will be in need of an originator. But how can that be, if there is nothing like Him or equal to Him or similar to Him? So, if the Originator is not temporal then He must be everlasting. And if He is everlasting—and without doubt He definitely is—then he cannot be one who was caused to come in to being by anything outside of Himself. Therefore, nothing could have caused Him to come in to existence. This means He must be able to sustain Himself, not depending on

anything to keep Him continuing in His existence, which of course can never cease. In the Magnificent, Glorious, Noble Qur'an, which is the final revelation sent down to mankind, there is a verse I want you to deeply consider. I want you to ponder over it and keep it with you as a gauge to determine what Allah (God) is, what He is not and thus how we should view Him. It is found in the chapter called 'The Consultation':

"There is nothing like Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing." [Ash-Shura 42:11]

From this point on we will utilize this verse whenever any apparent cloudiness occurs concerning the Lord of the Universe. This verse will bring us back to reality about Whom we are discussing and Whom we should be worshipping. This verse lays it out clearly.

Until next time,

Your first born son

Dannal Ashib

Letter 2

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy..

The Nature of God

Okay Mom, let's now talk about Him, the One Who has demanded from us to worship Him without any partners, the One Who returned our souls to us this morning so that we can awaken praising Him for that revival, seeking again His forgiveness and begging for His guidance.

You should know Mom that He, the One True God, has a nature, characteristics, qualities, traits and attributes that are uniquely dissimilar from everything else that exists. He possesses qualities which are unique to Him, and we also have characteristics, attributes, traits and qualities that are unique to us. And we as His creatures have no share, no affiliation, no partnership, no similarity or even the remotest likeness in the least to Him, and all of these qualities that we possess are vastly limited and restricted. We "*share*" with Him in the qualities of names and attributes in name only. For example, Allah hears and we hear. He sees and we see. He knows and we know (have knowledge). But regarding the degree or extent of that seeing, hearing or knowledge there is no comparison, similarity, equality, resemblance or likeness at all. This can be applied to any and every characteristic or quality He possesses. Thus, this "sharing" between the attributes of the Creator and the attributes of His creation is of a general, unrestricted type.

Therefore, when we read or hear of an attribute of any kind, the meaning or definition of that attribute and the “relationship” between us and our Creator is going to be what immediately comes to mind.

In other words, when we say for instance, the quality of a hand, “Uncle Albert’s hands are beautiful,” then those hands and their beauty is relative to the one they are connected to, who in this case is none other than Uncle Albert. Those hands are going to be commensurate with and befitting Albert since they belong to him and him alone, even though there are other creatures who also possess hands.

Likewise, we also know that God has hands. We know this because He has informed us of this and we would have never known that if He had not apprised us of that fact. We also would not have been able to assign those hands to Him had He not informed us of them via Divine Scripture. We would have either been lying on Him or fabricating something about Him without justification. I am sure you agree that that would be a tremendously, great sin: to attribute or assign something to Him which He did not attribute or assign to Himself. In the legal sense of the word, this on one side is called slander, while on the other side it is libel.

Let’s take the attribute of knowledge, for example. We as human beings have been endowed with this amazing gift. It allows us to do incredible things and affords us with great benefits. At the same time, that incredible quality of knowledge is very limited. In fact, we are in need of another created thing to have that knowledge; the brain. But Allah’s (God’s) knowledge is unlimited and unrestricted. It is not subjected to time, conditions, space or circumstances. He has always possessed the attribute of knowledge and will always be described as the One Who knows. He knows everything in the

most intricate way, with the finest details. His knowledge is not preceded with having to learn or be educated about what He knows nor is He subjected to forgetting what He knows. His knowledge, as I've already mentioned, befits His vast greatness, sublimity, and majesty. So it would be unbecoming to relegate to Him the inability of knowing, lack of knowing, or defective knowledge. Anyone or anything that has even one of those limitations in just this one quality—of knowledge—cannot be considered the One worthy of absolute and exclusive, love and worship. They cannot be considered the All-Knowing, Supreme Being, Lord of the Worlds.

My dear mother, one of those things that He and only He knows with the finest, most intricate detail is the Day of Judgment. The Prophets and Messengers of old, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad did not even possess this knowledge. They informed us of its many signs, but no man knew or knows the exact hour of its occurrence. The only One that has that exact information is Allah (God). Look at what Allah (God) says in the Qur'an in the chapter called "The Sincerity":

"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only God, the Eternal, the Absolute. He begets none, nor was He begotten, and there is none comparable to Him." [Al-Ikhlās 112:1-4]

You know something Mother, there is an interesting word I came across not too long ago, while reading an article, called *sylllogism*. According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary the word *sylllogism* means: "a formal argument in logic that is formed by two statements and a conclusion which must be true if the two statements are true" or "a deductive scheme of

a formal argument consisting of a major and minor premise and a conclusion.”

When looking at the verses in the chapter called “The Sincerity” and applying the principles of syllogism to it, what we come up with is: In a syllogism, each of the premises has one term in common with the conclusion: in the case of the major premise this is the major term, i.e., the predicate of the conclusion; in the case of the minor premise it is the minor term, the subject of the conclusion. For example:

Major premise: All men are mortal.

Minor premise: Barack Obama is a man.

Conclusion: Barack Obama is mortal.

“Being mortal” is the major term and “Barack Obama” is the minor term. The premises also have one term in common with each other, which is known as the middle term, in this case “is a man”. Here the major premise is general and the minor is particular, but this needn’t be the case. For example:

Major premise: All mortal things die.

Minor premise: All men are mortal things.

Conclusion: All men die.

Here, the major term is “die”, the minor term is “all men”, and the middle term is “being mortal things”. Please bear with me Mommy and I’ll give you some syllogistic examples referencing Jesus, using some verses from the Holy Qur’an. Allah (God) says:

“The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded.” [Al-Ma’idah 5:75]

This means that he was an example similar to those who were sent before him. That he is a slave from amongst the slaves (of God), a messenger from amongst those noble messengers. Added to that Mom, he and his noble, chaste mother both ate and had the need to nourish themselves from what they ate, which was a clear indication that they were similar to the rest of mankind and that they were not divine beings as some denominations of Christians ignorantly claim.

In another verse in the Magnificent Qur'an, Allah (God) commands the Prophet Muhammad to say to the people:

**“Is it other than Allah I should take as a protector,
Creator of the heavens and the earth, while it is He who
feeds and is not fed?”** [Al-An'am 6:14]

This verse clearly indicates that Allah (God) does not eat. I don't believe that any Christian would deny that the Prophets and Messengers just like Christ Jesus and his noble, chaste mother, Mary walked through the stores of their times. If this is the case my dear mother, then let's apply the syllogism to the important matter of God, Jesus and his pure, chaste mother, Mary:

Major premise: All men are mortal.

Minor premise: Jesus was a man.

Conclusion: Jesus was mortal.

Here is another one:

Major premise: Women give birth to human beings.

Minor premise: Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Conclusion: Jesus was a human being.

Moreover:

Major premise: He that worships is not God.

Minor premise: Jesus worshipped.

Conclusion: Jesus is not God.

If all of this is the case and is completely understood, my dear parent, then “come now and let us reason together” and take a closer look at the nature of the man—of whom we both hold dear to our hearts—the beloved Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary. If we can reason together, desire the truth and have clearly established that Allah (God) has a nature uniquely distinct from everything else that exists, then let us now go to two very important questions.

These two questions I was never asked by either you or Daddy, neither in my youth nor in my adulthood before embracing Islam: nor can I ever remember asking either of you these two questions.

The first of them is: “What was the reason or purpose God created us?”

Firstly: One of the greatest characteristics of Allah is wisdom, and one of His greatest names is *Al-Hakim* (the All-Wise). He has not created anything in futility. On the contrary, He creates things for great and wise reasons, and for magnificent purposes. Allah has stated that in His Final Revelation, the Glorious Qur’an, where He says that He has not created mankind in vain, and He has not created the heavens and the earth for nothing. Allah says:

“Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose), and that you would not be brought back to Us? So Exalted be Allah, the True King: there is no one that has the right to be worshipped other than He, the Lord of the Supreme Throne!”

[Al-Mu’minun 23:115-116]

“We created not the heavens and the earth and all that is between them for a (mere) play.” [Al-Anbiya’ 21:16]

“We created not the heavens and the earth and all that is between them except with truth, and for an appointed term. But those who disbelieve, turn away from that whereof they are warned.” [Al-Ahqaaf 46:1-3]

Just as it is proven that there is wisdom behind the creation of man from the standpoint of Islamic scriptures, it is also proven from the standpoint of logic and reason. The wise man cannot but accept that things have been created for a reason, and the astute man considers himself as being higher than doing things in his own life without purpose, so how about Allah, the Wisest of those who possess wisdom?

For this reason the wise, intelligent thinking believer affirms that there is great wisdom in Allah’s creation, and the disbelievers deny that. Allah says:

“Verily, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding. Those who remember Allah (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying): ‘Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted are You above all that they associate with You as partners). Give us salvation from the torment of the Fire.’” [The Family of Imraan 3:190-191]

and Allah says, describing the attitude of the disbelievers towards the wisdom of His creation:

“And We created not the heaven and the earth and all that is between them without purpose! That is the consideration of those who disbelieve! Then woe to

those who disbelieve (in Islamic Monotheism) from the Fire!" [Saad 38:27]

One of the greatest contemporary Muslim scholars of Qur'anic exegesis said: "Allah tells us of His perfect wisdom in creating the heavens and the earth, and that He has not created them in vain, i.e., in play with no beneficial purpose. **'That is the consideration of those who disbelieve'** in their Lord, because they think that which does not befit His Majesty. **'Then woe to those who disbelieve (in Pure Islamic Monotheism) from the Fire!'** Allah created the heavens and earth *in truth, for truth*, in order for His servants to recognize that He is able to do all things and that His Knowledge encompasses everything. He Alone has the right to be worshipped, excluding those who have created not even an atom's worth in the heavens or the earth, and that they might know that the Resurrection is true and that Allah will judge between the people of good and evil.

The one who is ignorant of the wisdom of Allah should not think that Allah will treat them equally when judging them. Hence Allah says:

"Shall We treat those who believe and do righteous good deeds as those who associate partners in worship with Allah and commit crimes on earth? Or shall We treat the pious as the wicked?" [Saad 38:28]

In other words, Allah is saying: this does not befit Our wisdom and Our judgment.

Secondly: Allah has not created man to simply eat, drink, and reproduce, since in that case he would be like the beasts of the fields. Allah has honored man and favored him far above many of those whom He has created, but many people insist on disbelief, so they are ignorant of or deny the

true wisdom behind their creation. All they care about is enjoying the pleasures of this world. The life of such people is like that of animals, and indeed they are even more astray as the meaning of what Allah says:

“While those who disbelieve enjoy themselves and eat as cattle eat; and the Fire will be their abode.”

[Muhammad 47:12]

I have to run now, but hopefully we will be able to continue later!

Danial Ashif

Letter 3

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The Purpose of Creation

My beloved mother, in our last correspondence we were talking about the purpose of our creation. It is well-known to all wise and thinking people that the one who does a thing knows more about the wisdom behind it than anyone else, and for Allah is the highest description. He is the One Who has created mankind and He knows best the wisdom behind the creation of mankind. No one would dispute this with regard to worldly matters.

All people are certain that their physical faculties have been created for a reason. The eye is for seeing, the ear is for hearing, and so on. **Does it make sense for man's physical faculties to have been created for a reason but for himself to have been created in vain?** Or does he not agree to respond to the One Who created him when He tells him of the reason behind his creation?

Allah (God) has told us that the creation of the heavens and the earth, and of life and death, is for the purpose of testing. Whoever obeys Him will be rewarded and whoever disobeys Him will be punished. Allah says in His final revelation to all mankind:

"And He it is Who has created the heavens and the earth in six Days and His Throne was on the water, that He might try you, which of you is the best in deeds. But

if you were to say to them: 'You shall indeed be raised up after death,' those who disbelieve would be sure to say, 'This is nothing but obvious magic.'" [Hud 11:7]

Thus, my dear mother, one of the greatest reasons for which Allah has created mankind—which is one of the greatest tests—is the command to affirm His singularity, uniqueness and oneness, and to worship Him Alone with no partner or associate. Allah has stated this reason for the creation of mankind, as He says:

"And I (Allah) created not the jinns and human beings except that they should worship Me (Alone)."

[Adh-Dhariyat 51:56]

In other words, Allah is saying: I have created them so that I may command them to worship Me, not because I have any need of them.

Additionally, this means that Allah created mankind to worship Him and to know Him by His beautiful names and perfect attributes, and to enjoin that upon them. Whoever submits to Him and does what is enjoined upon him will be one of those who are successful, but whoever turns away from that, then they are the losers. He will without doubt gather them together in the Afterlife where He will reward or punish them for what He commanded and forbade them to do.

As for the second question that I was never asked, nor did I ever think to ask it of you or Daddy: "What exactly is considered worship?" In the Arabic language the word for worship is "*Al-'Ibadah*," which is absolute submissiveness coupled with absolute love for the one being worshipped. This devotional love and submission must be for Allah and no one else. In Islam, worship is a comprehensive term that includes all that Allah loves and is pleased with, including actions, statements, and beliefs.

Thus, Mom, anything and everything a Muslim does in his daily life can literally become an act of worship that Allah will love or be pleased with, rewarding the doer of that action in this life and the Hereafter. Some examples of types of worship are formal and informal prayer, general supplications, giving charity to the poor and needy, fasting, being intimate with one's spouse, eating food, putting on clothes, providing an education for one's children, brushing or combing one's hair, the types are innumerable. But what is important is that all of these must be directed to Allah Alone, done in His Name only, seeking His pleasure only, in a manner He legislated in His Final Revelation, The Glorious Qur'an. Likewise, all of these various types of worship must be done in accordance with the way and example of Allah's (God's) final Prophet and Messenger sent to mankind, the man born in the Arabian Peninsula in the year 570 CE, Muhammad, may Allah raise him in rank and grant peace upon him.

These acts of worship fall under three main categories: those performed with the heart, the tongue, and the limbs. The first of these are the intentions: the reason and basis for all of these actions. The intention, which resides in the heart, is the most important of the three types. That is because actions are judged by their intentions. Every person will get that which he intends, because there are some people who perform certain actions, but in their hearts they do not really want to do them. Some people fast, but they do not want to do it. Some people give charity but they feel remorse after giving the food, clothing or money to the indigent individual or they only do it so they do not look bad in the eyes of the people.

The second type of worship are things people say, whether it be glorifying Allah (God), reciting the Qur'an,

speaking well about an individual in their absence, or rebuking an evil or injustice witnessed—as long as it does not cause an individual or the society at large a greater evil or injustice.

The last type of worship is in the form of actions. It is the worship done with the limbs. If a person does good deeds for the sake of Allah, all those actions would be deemed as acts of worship. On the other hand, bad actions are *not* acts of worship. Things like stealing; fighting, backbiting, tale carrying, and smoking are all bad actions. Unlike the heart, worship in words and deeds are not hidden. Yet, they are *controlled* by the heart. If the heart is pure and clean, the outward actions will also be pure and clean. The greatest act of worship in Islam is to single out Allah with worship, deeming Him to be singular and unique, without associating any partners, helpers or rivals with Him. Nothing is equal to Him or like Him. He has neither a son nor a mother. He begets not, nor was He begotten. He is not simultaneously human and divine, since they are two distinct natures!

Therefore, my beloved mother, Islam defines with the utmost accuracy and detail the purpose of life and creation. It gives the best definition of our purpose: to worship the Most High, ascribing no partners to Him whatsoever, since He is the only One who has the distinct right to be worshipped. So Mom, if this is clearly understood, I would like to ask you a question:

“If there is only One Creator Who, by Himself without any help, created everything from nothing, owns absolutely everything in an absolute and complete way and controls, commands and administrates all the affairs of all of His creatures, how would it be just, fair, true and appropriate to ascribe any of these uniquely distinctive attributes to anything that He created,

namely Jesus, the Messiah, son of the Blessed Mary?! Would it be correct or even appropriate to say that God created Jesus, then Jesus created the Universe, hence granting him the grandiose title of Creator God while at the same time saying that we believe there is only One Lord, Creator, Owner, and Controller of all that exists?!"

To even *suggest* the existence of two gods is to bring into discussion a conflict of wills, purposes, and powers between the two. How much more a third?! Allah says in the Qur'an:

"Had there been within the heavens and earth gods besides Allah, they both would have been ruined. So exalted is Allah, Lord of the Throne, above what they describe or attribute to Him." [Al-Anbiya' 21:22]

He also says:

"And [beware the Day] when Allah will say: 'O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah?' He will say: 'Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You Who is Knower of the Unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me: to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, a witness.'" [Al-Ma'idah 5:116-117]

In these verses, Allah (God) states that Jesus will disavow the falsehood which the Christians have attributed to

him. He did not demand, request, or make the slightest hint that anyone should worship him *or* his mother! Again, it would not be proper since his nature is unlike the nature of the One who sent him. As we know—my beloved mother—Jesus never explicitly uttered the words “I am God” or “worship me”. I have mentioned earlier that worshipping God Alone is the sole purpose of our creation. Therefore, if Jesus were God—as you all claim—then the command to worship him would have been *explicitly* clear in your scripture, but it is not.

The Magnificent Qur’an, Allah’s Final Revelation sent to all mankind, came to clarify what the people have either misunderstood or concocted with their own hands attributing it to the Lord of the Universe! For indeed, the one who prays and cries out for assistance cannot be The Almighty God. This reminds me of that Easter Day when I was about nine or ten years old. I was all dressed up and tried to climb that barbed wire fence. My foot slipped and my wrist got caught in one of the barbed wires. Remember? I was hanging by one arm screaming out for help to get removed from that extremely painful situation and taken down. I eventually had to be rushed to the hospital. I received exactly three stitches!

Likewise, the one who fasts cannot be the Almighty God, as I have already mentioned to you, Mom, that acts of worship are due to the only One True God. The one who eats cannot be God. The one who sleeps cannot be God. The one who dies cannot, and will never, be the Ever-Living, Self-Subsisting God.

Therefore, as Muslims we believe that Allah Alone is the only one who deserves all worship. We believe that no form of worship should be directed to anyone or anything except Allah, not to an angel, a prophet, a messenger, a pious worshipper, nor to anything else. No one deserves to be

worshipped except Allah, the One Who created, originated, fashioned, and designed the heavens and earth and all that is between them.

Another aspect of worship—my dear mother—which I must mention (and this is to show the extent of devotion, submission and love we have for Allah) is that in Islam, worship also includes legislation: Allah (God) is the Creator, Owner and Controller of everything. Thus, He also deserves to be the Legislator: the One Who makes the laws and determines what is lawful and unlawful.

So if He, the All-Wise, the All-Knowing says a certain food is unlawful and a priest, minister, cardinal, monk, rabbi, parent, doctor, nutritionist, or the like says it is lawful—even if that the person who accepted that verdict does not consume that prohibited food themselves—they then have worshipped the one who said it was permissible to be eaten! In other words, obedience to a created being becomes polytheism (associating partners with God) when a person obeys someone in matters where what is forbidden is deemed to be allowed, and vice versa. It is also polytheism when someone issues rules or laws opposing Allah's Laws and the follower believes that these laws are more complete, better, or as good as His Laws, or that the laws of Allah are better but it is permissible to follow these man-made laws.

Once a Christian man named Adiy—**who eventually embraced Islam—returned to the city of al-Madinah wearing a silver cross around his neck. The Messenger of Allah—may Allah raise him in rank and grant him peace—said: “They worship them (their rabbis and their monks).” Adiy then said, “They do not worship them.” So the Prophet Muhammad said, “Do they not make lawful for you that which Allah has forbidden and forbid what Allah has made**

lawful?" He said, "Yes." Finally, this verse was revealed to the Prophet of which he recited to him:

"They (Jews and Christians) took their rabbis and their monks to be their Lords besides Allah (by obeying them in things which they made lawful or unlawful according to their own desires without being ordered by Allah)..." [At-Tawbah 9:31]

Thus, they worship them. Therefore, the Jews and the Christians' obedience to their rabbis and their priests in sin—accepting what they say about what is lawful or unlawful—is a form of worshipping something other than Allah (God). This is a kind of major polytheism: the gravest sin a human could ever commit. This, in essence, opposes and contradicts true monotheism which in Arabic is called *Tawhid*. The Qur'an mentions that Jesus said:

"O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Indeed, he who associates others with Allah—Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is the Fire. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers." [Al-Ma'idah 5:72]

Furthermore the Prophet Muhammad has stated:

"Whoever dies without associating anything in worship with Allah will enter Paradise, and whoever dies associating anything in worship with Him will enter the Fire."

Thus as you can see, worship is not restricted to just prayer, supplication, fasting, and the like, rather it is much more comprehensive in its meaning and application.

With all the natural love a son could have for his Mother,

Dannun Asid

His Beautiful Names and Perfect Descriptions

There is another aspect of Allah's uniqueness and singularity which I would like to share with you: the uniqueness of Allah's Names and Perfect Descriptions. As Muslims, we believe in and accept His Beautiful Names and Sublime Descriptions. We affirm that which Allah (God) has affirmed for Himself in the Qur'an and in the prophetic tradition (commonly called Hadith) of His Final Messenger, Muhammad. On the outset, it seems quite academic—and you always taught me to be academic—but with further investigation you will see how many people have strayed away from giving Allah His just estimation and diminished His lofty status as the Supreme Being.

In Islam, we only accept Allah's Names which are established by way of Divine Revelation. We do not *distort* Allah's (God) Names and Descriptions. We do not *deny Allah's* Names and Descriptions. We do not ask about the *modality* of Allah's Descriptions, and we do not *liken* Him to any of His creation. Because of my deep love for you and concern for your general well-being and ultimate salvation, I will explain each of these in relative detail.

Distortion of Allah's (God) Names and Descriptions: For example, in the Qur'an Allah describes Himself as having hands. And you know as well as I that the Bible also mentions that God has hands. In the book of Isaiah (48:13) it reads:

"Surely My Hand founded the earth, And My Right Hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together."

Yet, there are those who distort this description, saying: "No, it does not really mean 'hand' in the literal sense of the word, rather it means His 'power, might, or ability.'" The highest respect and reverence for Him would be to say exactly what He says about Himself: that He actually has hands, hands which befit His Majesty. He does not resemble His creation. His creation does not resemble Him. To distort any of Allah's Attributes would be to speak about Him without knowledge. And how can anyone ever claim to know more about Allah (God) than He knows about Himself?!

Denial of Allah's Names and Descriptions: There are some people who outright deny Allah's (God's) Names and Descriptions; let's take the aforementioned attribute as an example. Out of so-called "respect" and "reverence" for Him, there are some who claim that He does not possess hands, ignorantly asserting that because some of the lower and higher forms of animals possess hands, it would be inappropriate to assign those types of characteristics to the Lord of all that exists. In response to that, we testify that we accept what Allah (God) affirms for Himself. And we accept what His Messenger Muhammad affirmed for Him. We do not deny any of His attributes or descriptions. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“O Satan! What prevents you from prostrating yourself to one whom I have created with Both My Hands?”

[Saad 38:75]

Asking about the Modality of Allah’s Description: In Islam we believe that it is a severely grave violation of God’s Rights and an absolute blasphemy for anyone to ever ask the question, “How are Allah’s (God) attributes?”. Since, if He has not shared with us the exact details concerning *how* His attributes are or *how* He does an action, then we have no right to comment upon it. For example, in the Glorious Qur’an—and it is also mentioned in the Bible—God states that He possesses a Mighty Throne which exists over the Seventh Heaven.

With this information, we were not apprised of exactly *how* He is over that mighty creation. So it is not proper for us to speculate about the modality of how Allah is over the Throne. Rather, we simply say what He and His Final Messenger, have affirmed. Also, He states in His Mighty Book that He will come with His angels rank upon rank.

“And your Lord has come and the angels, rank upon rank.” [Al-Fajr 89:22]

We do not know the modality of His coming; He has not given us details nor has His Prophet. So the true believer, the obedient worshipper, leaves the modality to Him, The One Who knows all things. This avoidance of delving into the modality of His attributes also extends to using our own limbs. For example, His Final Messenger, Muhammad, has informed us that at the last third of every night Allah (God) descends to the Lowest Heaven—which is closest to our earthly plane. He asks:

“Who will call upon Me, so that I may answer Him? Who will ask of Me, so that I may grant him? Who will seek My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?”

When discussing His descending, it would be improper to make an up-to-down gesture with our hands; this would be implying *how* He descends. So, Mom, we Muslims stay far, far away from using our tongues and our limbs when speaking about the Owner of the entire universe. All of this is an enormous aspect of properly worshipping Him. This is an essential component of having good conduct and manners when thinking about Him and when imploring Him in our daily supplications.

Likening Allah (God) to His Creation: Lastly, what I wanted to discuss with you, is making any resemblance, similarities, or likeness of Him with His creatures. Allah’s Essence or Nature is *totally* different from anything that He has created and is unlike anything that we have ever imagined or seen. Thus, it would be a heresy to say that He resembles what He created in any way shape, form, or fashion. There is a foundational verse in the Qur’an or hadith (Prophetic narration) which can be used for any and every attribute, quality, characteristic, or description of which Allah and His Messenger have informed us. The meaning of that verse is:

“There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, All-Seer.” [Ash-Shura 42:II]

So, there is nothing like Him. There is nothing that is equal to Him. There is nothing similar or comparable to Him. There is nothing that can rival Him. He is far above any resemblance to any created being. Whatever comes across the mind of the human being with regard to his Lord, His Lord is

greater than that. No creature can encompass Him. No one can imagine what He looks like. Glorified and exalted is He, the King, the Creator, the All-Mighty Allah.

“...and they will never encompass anything of His Knowledge.” [Ta-Ha 20:110]

You know Mommy, I have been compared by a lot of people—including you—to Daddy in many, many ways. My height, shoe size, baritone voice, my gait, my hands, especially my thumbs, yet my disposition has been compared to you. While my brother looks like you in so many ways but acts somewhat like Daddy. Strange, huh?

By the way, this part of the discussion reminds me of when we were little kids. In the kitchen on the wall we had a rotary dial phone and Daddy had to use a pencil because his fingers were too big to put inside the holes! It's getting late and I'm getting a little sleepy now so let's continue this later on, okay?

With love,

Danniel Achib

Letter 5

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

What's up Ma? How have you been? Did you get your car fixed yet?

There's Nothing Like Him

I wanted to begin this epistle by supplicating that Allah guide you to the right path—the path of all of the Prophets and Messengers—and improve your condition.

I would like to continue from our last conversation. We discussed that the true worshipper of Allah (God) Almighty is not supposed to try to imagine or picture Him. Rather, he has to believe in the transcendent characteristics which befit Allah's Greatness, Majesty, and Might. There is none like unto Him. Consider Ma, some Christian youth I saw one summer day. Most likely in their minds they thought they were "praising and glorifying" their Lord. They were wearing very colorful T-shirts on which there were a list of slanderous, blasphemous statements against God, Our Maker and Provider:

God is like Coke... He's the real thing.

God is like Pan Am... He makes the going great.

God is like General Electric... He lights your path.

God is like Hallmark Cards... He cares enough to send the very best.

God is like Tide... He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like VO5 Hair Spray... He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like Dial soap... Aren't you glad you know him? Don't you wish everyone did?

While Allah says in His Magnificent Book:

"There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, All-Seer." [Ash-Shura 42:11]

Now reflect Mom upon what Allah (God) says about Himself in the Noble Qur'an and His statement of command to His noble Prophet Muhammad:

"Say (O Muhammad): 'He is Allah, the One, the Self-Sufficient, He begets not, nor was He begotten; And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him.'"

[Al-Ikhlās 112:1-4]

Even though dad and I are of a similar essence, he and I will never, ever be similar, equal or like him since he preceded me in many ways and had a status that I will never be able to reach. If that is a reality, then how much more can God compare to a drink containing high fructose corn syrup, sucrose derived from cane sugar, caramel color, caffeine, phosphoric acid, coca extract, lime extract, vanilla, and glycerin?! A soft drink that contains no vitamins or minerals and essentially no benefit whatsoever other than the taste and possibly cravings. Or is He like a bar of soap that at one time contained a substance called Hexachlorophene that was found to cause neurological damage in infants? I'm slipping all this additional information in there as a hint. I know how much Dad liked those sugary sodas! He used to hide those jelly beans in his dresser drawer beneath his underwear? Anyway, getting back to the subject. Allah says about Himself:

"...and for Allah is the highest description. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." [An-Nahl 16:60]

Also in His Magnificent Book He says:

“But they have attributed partners to Allah, the jinn, while He has created them. And they have fabricated for Him sons and daughters without knowledge.”

[Al-An‘am 6:100]

Furthermore He says:

“Had there been therein (in the heavens and the earth) gods besides Allah, then verily both would have been ruined. Glorified be Allah, the Lord of the Throne, (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!”

[Al-Anbiya’ 21:22]

Thus, my dear mother, Allah has not left us in the dark concerning exactly *who* He is, *what* He is, *where* He is, nor how to regard and estimate Him. Everything is mentioned in His Final Book and in the Prophetic Traditions of His noble, Final Prophet, that Messenger that was sent to all mankind, Muhammad, the son of Abdullah, born in the Arabian Peninsula, in the city of Mecca—may Allah raise him in rank and grant him peace!

Until next time,

Your son, Dawud

Dawud ash-Shaykh

Letter 6

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Polytheism

Greetings to my dear, beloved mother! Since we have been talking about *Tawhid* (Pure Monotheism), the most important aspect of Islam, we must now highlight its opposite: *shirk* or polytheism. Up until this point we have only alluded to it. If a person really desires to know the reality of something, he should get to know its antithesis, thus things will become clearer.

In the Arabic language the word *shirk* literally means taking a partner, i.e., regarding someone as the partner of another. In Islamic terminology, *shirk* is to ascribe a partner, helper, or rival to Allah in His Lordship, His unique right to be worshipped, or in His Names and Attributes. A rival is an equal or counterpart. Hence, Allah forbids setting up rivals with Him. In the Mighty Qur'an, Allah condemns those who take rivals as gods besides Him. Allah says:

“Then do not set up rivals unto Allah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped).” [Al-Baqarah 2:22]

The Qur'an also mentions:

“And they set up rivals to Allah to mislead (men) from His path! Say: ‘Enjoy (your brief life)! But certainly, your destination is the (Hell) Fire!’” [Ibrahim 14:30]

Furthermore there is a narration that the Prophet Muhammad said: **“Whoever dies claiming that Allah has a rival will enter Hell.”** You should know, my dear mother, that the person who commits this heinous act of *shirk* (polytheism) is called a *mushrik* or polytheist. Shirk comes in a variety of shapes and forms, but it is generally divided into two types: major and minor. Discussing this topic with you is very important to me, because as I look back at my life before embracing Islam, I see that I was steeped in this tremendous offense against Allah (God). What follows is a brief description of various types of polytheism:

- **Polytheism in Allah’s Lordship:** The belief that other than Allah creates, provides, gives life or death, or other than that from the characteristics of Lordship.
- **Polytheism in Worship:** Directing any type of worship to other than Allah such as slaughtering, swearing, vowing, supplicating, prostrating, bowing, etc. It is also important to note here that included in this type of polytheism is to call upon, seek the aid or intercession of saints, the dead, etc.
- **Polytheism in Allah’s Names & Attributes:** Describing any of Allah’s creation with characteristics which are unique to Him. Such as believing in soothsayers, fortunetellers, psychics, and palm readers. In reality, no one knows the Unseen except Allah.
- **Hidden Polytheism:** Performing acts of worship to be seen, heard, or praised.
- **Polytheism of Love:** To love other than Allah as one loves or *should* love Allah.
- **Polytheism of Fear and Awe:** To fear other than Allah as one fears or *should* fear Allah.

As you can see, Mom, there are many types of polytheism. All of them lead to Allah's (God) anger and displeasure. If anyone dies and has not repented from these heinous deeds, he will be fuel for the Hell-Fire, in it he will remain forever. I pray that these words resonate with you. And I know that your guidance is not in my hands, but rather in the Hands of the One Who created you and returned your soul to you this morning.

*Your husband's look alike,
David, Jr. (now Dawud)*

Dawud ash-Shaykh

Letter 7

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

JESUS!

Unsurprisingly, this letter is a very, very important one to me since for much, if not most, of my childhood, I had heard this name mentioned in our home and even more in the home of my maternal grandparents constantly: JESUS! His name was literally a household word. As a young boy I grew to love, cherish, and respect him very quickly, although I did not know much about him from a historical aspect. I was taught by you—not so much from Daddy—that he was the Son of God and God Himself. Additionally, I believed he had a third counterpart. I must admit, I really didn't know that my family considered them *all* co-equal, co-eternal, and consubstantial until later on in my adult life. It didn't even dawn on me!

I just simply believed there were three gods: God, the Father who was in Heaven, Jesus, the Son who was with us everywhere we went, and the Holy Ghost (Spirit). I believed that all of them were one. As I've mentioned, Mom, it was the belief that there was union of God the Father with God the Son and the Holy Ghost (Spirit). As I got older—and in fact it really wasn't until I embraced Islam—I learned that Christians *also* believe it is not enough to just say that they are all the same. Rather, according to many Christians, they are all three **equally** God: one God in three unique Persons. This is due to the principal, additional belief of consubstantiality:

that the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are of the exact same substance.

Essentially, Christians believe that what they (i.e., God, Son, and the Holy Spirit) are made of, what they all are at their very core is the same, and the Christians provide many, many “proofs” to support this claim, which for them is an integral fundamental belief. One of those “proofs” that you already know of, Mom, is the verse attributed to Jesus in John 10:30 which states: “I and the Father are one.”

This is my introduction to a discussion of a number of issues including Jesus in Islam, the Crucifixion, the Return of Jesus, the Trinity, and many other topics as well. So I’ll leave with that and get back to you later.

Love,

Your first born son whom you named at birth David, Jr.,

David Asch

Letter 8

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Jesus in Islam

Okay, let's begin with the Christ Jesus in Islam, from the viewpoint of the Qur'an and Prophetic Traditions called *hadith*. I should say firstly that the Qur'an does not give a detailed portrait of Jesus' life with great specificity. In the Qur'an there are profound general details about Jesus, while in the Prophetic Traditions there are specific accounts. Also, the Prophet Muhammad's Companions, many of whom were once Jews and Christians before embracing Islam, have presented details about Jesus that were either confirmed or denied by the Prophet Muhammad. Likewise, there are many historical sources which have been verified by reputable Muslim and non-Muslim scholars alike.

If there were class systems during the time of Christ Jesus, similar to our modern times, it would probably be safe to say that Jesus was a lower-class citizen from the rustic backwoods of the countryside of the rocky terrains of Galilee. He possessed firm determination and strong resolve. Allah sent him to his people, the Children of Israel. He taught him the Torah (the Revelation sent to Moses) and the Gospel. He was sent verifying what was in the Torah. You should keep in mind my mother that by Allah's Command and Decree, he abrogated some of its laws and rulings, even allowing for his

followers some of what was forbidden in the previous scriptures. In the Qur'an Allah says:

“And in their footsteps, We sent Jesus, son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him, and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light and confirmation of the Torah that had come before it, a guidance and an admonition for the pious.”

[Al-Ma'idah 5:46]

The Torah and the Gospel were both divine revelations; the Torah was revealed to Moses, the son of Imran, and the Gospel was revealed to Jesus, the son of Mary. Jesus followed them both. It is believed that Jesus was of Jewish origin, from Galilee. As for the term “Jewish,” it is commonly used to refer to everything relative to the culture and religion of the Jews, which for the most part was monotheistic. In contrast, the term “Hebrew” is *not* connected to a credo or a set of beliefs, rather to the ethnic Israelites and can also be the name of their language. “Jewish” has a more religious implication while “Hebrew” does not.

So the belief in Islam—which is the most accurate belief—with regard to Jesus, the Christ, is that he was a Hebrew by virtue of his culture. Unlike, the depictions ascribed to Jesus by painters of past and present, we find the Prophet Muhammad saying:

“There is no prophet between us. He shall descend. Therefore recognize him when you see him. He is a man of medium height, his complexion is between ruddy and white. He will be dressed in two saffron colored garments. His head looks as if it is dripping water even though it is not wet...”

In another narration Mom, the Prophet Muhammad said:

“He was a ruddy man inclined to white. He did not have long hair. He never anointed his head. Jesus used to walk barefoot, and he took no house, nor adornment, nor goods, nor clothes, nor provisions, except his day’s food. His head was disheveled and his face was small. He was an ascetic in this world, longing for the next world and eager for the worship of Allah.”

His mother, Mary, who was the daughter of a man named Imran, was a pious and righteous woman. She is highly praised in the Qur’an. In fact, the 19th chapter of the Qur’an is named after her. She exerted great effort in worship, to the extent that she was considered greater than all of the women of her lifetime. There are some who have said she surpassed the most righteous men in acts of devotion and worship. The angel Gabriel was commissioned to give her the glad tidings that Allah had chosen her to bear this blessed child:

“And (remember) when the angels said: ‘O Mary! Verily, Allah has chosen you, purified you, and chosen you above the women of the worlds.’”

[The Family of Imran 3:42]

I’m sure this is a great surprise to you, Mommy, as it was to me the first time I read it in the Qur’an. The angels further said:

“O Mary! ‘Submit yourself with obedience to your Lord, and prostrate yourself, and bow down along with those who bow down.’” [The Family of Imran 3:43]

Then the angels gave Mary the glad tidings that Allah would bestow upon her a child, whom He would create with

the word "Be!" And he was. It is for this reason he is called "the Word of Allah (God)." And even though I'm sure you would agree with this title, we Muslims understand this title to have a more respectful and befitting meaning that does not denote divinity in the least.

As you can see, Ma, the version of this story is slightly different from the one found in the Bible. It continues with Allah saying:

"He will speak to the people in the cradle and in manhood; and he will be one of the righteous. She (Mary) said: 'O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?' He said: 'So it will be, for Allah creates what He wills. When He has decreed something, He simply says to it: "Be!"—and it is. And He (Allah) will teach him (Jesus) the Book and Wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel, and will make him (Jesus) a Messenger to the Children of Israel (saying): 'I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I design for you out of clay, a figure like that of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's Leave; and I heal him who was born blind, and the leper, and I bring the dead to life by Allah's Permission. And I inform you of what you eat, and what you store in your houses. Surely, therein is a sign for you, if you believe. And I have come confirming that which was before me of the Torah, and to make lawful to you part of what was forbidden to you, and I have come to you with a proof from your Lord. So fear Allah and obey me. Truly, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him (Alone). This is the Straight Path.'"

[The Family of Imran 3:46-51]

I encourage you to read the story in that English translation of the Qur'an I gave all of you when you visited me at my home a few months ago. You will find it in the 19th chapter.

"She said: 'How can I have a son, when no man has touched me, nor am I unchaste?' He said: 'so (it will be), your Lord said: "That is easy for Me (Allah). And (We wish) to appoint him as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us (Allah), and it is a matter (already) decreed (by Allah).'" [Mary 19:16-21]

Bear in mind Mom, when Allah speaks of Himself using the pronoun "Us" this is not to be understood in the sense of a numerical plural but rather the plural of majesty or royalty. Like the queen of a country says "We the Queen on this day make this [royal] decree" or when a king says, "We conquered this land, and we defeated this army." It doesn't mean she (i.e., the queen) is more than one, rather it shows greatness and sublimity of her office and rank. So in the Qur'an—as well as the Bible—it is not meant in the plural, rather to demonstrate the sublimity, greatness, majesty and transcendence of the Lord and Master of the Heavens and Earth... Allah!

This is very common in many other languages, especially those of Semitic origin. Another proof in the Qur'an which indicates that the term "We" or "Us" doesn't refer to Allah and His angels, or Allah and the Blessed Spirit, or Allah and Jesus (or Allah and any other created being for that matter) is that you will never, ever see in a Qur'anic verse "and when *they* created the Heavens and Earth" or "when *they* sent down the rain" or "when *they* drove the clouds" and

so on. Allah is far above and totally removed from any such descriptions!

I really love this stuff, Mom, but let me not get beside myself. So getting back to what Allah says in the Magnificent Qur'an about the miraculous birth of Jesus, the Messiah: when Jibreel (Gabriel) told Mary that, she submitted to the Will and Decree of Allah, and Jibreel breathed into the sleeves of her garment. Amazing, utterly amazing! Now, this is a detail about Prophet Jesus, Mom, that no one would have known had not Allah informed us of it. Allah commanded Gabriel to blow through the neck of Mary's garment, and this breath went down and by the will of Allah entered her womb, until it became a special living soul that Allah had created. By "special" I mean that he would have a magnificent rank, a mighty mission, and an elite job to perform. Not that he would be divine in anyway whatsoever, since divinity is exclusively for Allah. Allah has explained how He created Jesus (peace be upon him), as He said:

“And [mention] the one (Mary) who guarded her chastity, so We blew into her [garment through Our angel (Gabriel)], and We made her and her son a sign for the worlds.” [Al-Anbiya 21:91]

Then Allah explains that the spirit reached her womb, as Allah says:

“And [the example of] Mary, the daughter of Imran, who guarded her chastity, so We blew into [her garment] through Our angel, and she believed in the words of her Lord and His scriptures and was of the devoutly obedient.” [At-Tahrim 66:12]

Allah says in the Qur'an:

“(The angel) said: ‘I am only a messenger from your Lord, (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son.’”

[Mary 19:19]

This passage shows that it was the mighty arch-Angel Gabriel who blew into her. Neither Gabriel, nor any other angel, does anything except by Allah’s Command. Our Muslim scholars have also informed us from well-known and authentic sources that when the signs of Mary’s pregnancy became apparent, a very righteous man from among her relatives who worshipped in the temple with her, by the name of Joseph the Carpenter, noticed her stomach had become larger. He deemed that to be odd since she was an unmarried virgin. He also found it to be strange because her family was celebrated for their chastity and piety. So having good thoughts about her he did not say anything to her about what he felt. We have a saying from one of the famous scholars of Islam: **“Good thoughts are for good actions and bad thoughts are for bad actions.”**

So Joseph said, while speaking indirectly:

“O Mary, I am going to ask you about something, so do not get alarmed.” She said, **“What is it?”** He said: **“Has any tree or plant ever grown without a seed? Has any child ever been born without a father?”** She said: **“Yes, I understand what you are referring to. As for your asking whether any tree or plant has ever grown without a seed, when Allah first created trees and plants He created them without seeds. And (as for your question), has any child ever been born without a father? (Verily), Allah created Adam without either a father or a mother.”**

So he believed her and left her alone.

Incidentally, my dear mother, there is a verse in the Qur'an in the chapter named after Mary's family, "The Family of Imran", that says:

"Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, 'Be,' and he was." [The Family of Imran 3:59]

One of the "likenesses" that Jesus has with Adam is that they both had miraculous beginnings. The former came into this existence without the agency of a father, while the latter without a mother *or* a father!

What we have learned from some of our Muslim scholars is that Mary's pregnancy was that of any other women with the exception that it was without the agency of a man. In short, Allah says:

"So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a far place." [Mary 19:22]

According to the most authentic and reliable Islamic sources, that place was Bethlehem Valley. Allah says:

"And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a date palm tree. She said: 'Would that I had died before this, and had been forgotten and out of sight!'"

[Mary 19:22-23]

When I get back to you later, I will give you to the best of my ability some details from the prophetic traditions about the moments leading up to Jesus' ascension into Heaven.

Take care!

Your first brought forth,

Daniyal Ashiq

Crucifixion?

We have a very beautiful account of Jesus' ascension into Heaven from one of the Companions of Prophet Muhammad. It says:

“When Allah wanted to raise Jesus to the heavens, Jesus went to his companions, who were twelve inside the house. When he arrived, his hair was dripping water and he said, ‘There are those among you who will disbelieve in me twelve times after he had believed in me.’ He then asked, ‘Who volunteers that his likeness appears as mine, and be killed in my place? He will be with me in magnitude (i.e., accompany me in Heaven).’ One of the youngest ones among them volunteered and Jesus asked him to sit down. Jesus again asked for a volunteer and the young man kept volunteering and Jesus (continued) asking him to sit down. Then the young man volunteered again and Jesus said, ‘You will be that man’, and the resemblance of Jesus was cast over that (young) man while Jesus ascended to Heaven from an aperture in the house.’

When the Jews came looking for Jesus, they found that young man. They crucified and killed *him*. So, some of Jesus' followers disbelieved in him twelve times after they had believed in him. They then divided into three

groups. One group, the Jacobites, said, 'God remained with us as long as He willed and then ascended to Heaven.' Another group, the Nestorians, said, 'Jesus the son of God was with us as long as he willed and God took him to Heaven.' Another group, the true believers, said, 'Jesus the Servant and Messenger of God remained with us as long as God willed, and God then took him (Jesus) to Him.' The two disbelieving groups collaborated against the believing group then killed them. Ever since that happened, (the true religion of Jesus) was then veiled until Allah (God) sent Muhammad."

Danur Achib

Letter 10

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

You know something, Mom? Even though you have said my brother and I were good boys, I think I'm being paid back for being naughty at times as a little boy because your grandkids tried to drive me crazy today, Ma! Smile

The Return of Jesus

As for the return of Jesus, then anyone claiming Islam as their religion has to believe in the Messiah's return, not in any figurative or metaphorical sense but an *actual physical* return. But before we delve into his return, I believe it would be proper to mention a few more things about his ascension which is associated with the Crucifixion event. Allah says:

"But Allah raised him up (with his body and soul) unto Himself..." [An-Nisa 4:158]

And He says:

"[Mention] when Allah said, 'O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself (in Heaven) and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you [in submission to Allah Alone] superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ."

[The Family of Imran 3:55]

Allah's announcement that He raised Jesus up to Heaven is also a repudiation of the Jews' claim of killing him. Allah says:

“And [We cursed them] for their breaking of the covenant and their disbelief in the signs of Allah and their killing of the prophets without right and their saying, ‘Our hearts are wrapped’. Rather, Allah has sealed them because of their disbelief, so they believe not, except for a few. And [We cursed them] for their disbelief and their saying against Mary a great slander, And because of their saying (in boast), ‘We killed the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah’—but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man (and they killed that man), and those who differ therein are full of doubts. They have no (certain) knowledge, they follow nothing but conjecture. For surely, they killed him not. But Allah raised him up (with his body and soul) unto Himself (and he is in the Heavens). And Allah is Ever All-Powerful, All-Wise. And there is none of the People of the Book (i.e., Jews and Christians), except that they will believe in him (Jesus) before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection, he will be a witness against them.” [An-Nisa 4:155-159]

So contrary to popular belief, we the Muslims unequivocally believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) has not yet died. We believe that Allah raised him up to Heaven, because the Jews wanted to kill him. Eventually, Jesus will descend towards the end of time. He will rule the earth according to the Islamic Legislation, following the example

and commandments of the Prophet Muhammad. He will live as long as Allah allows. He will die and the Muslims will perform the Funeral Prayer for him.

The aforementioned Qur'anic verse indicates that before Jesus' death, the Jews and Christians must believe in Jesus with the *proper* belief: he was Allah's messenger, slave, and servant. He was a human being. As Allah says in another place in the Qur'an:

“O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, ‘Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah?’ He will say, ‘Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You (O God) would have known it. You know what is within me, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is All-Knower of the unseen.” [Al-Ma'idah 5:116]

Therefore, when Jesus comes back down to the earth, before the Day of Resurrection, all of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) will believe in him, with a proper belief. He will abolish the *Jizyah*, the tax paid by non-Muslims in an Islamic government. He will accept nothing but Islam.

When Allah (God) took Jesus up into Heaven, those who were following him became splinter groups. Some of them continued to believe in what Allah had revealed to him in the Gospel. They maintained the belief that Jesus was a Messenger, a Prophet, a servant of God, and the son of Mary, devoid of any divinity whatsoever. Given that, neither he nor his true followers ever believed at any point that he was God or equal to Him. They never heard Jesus command them to

call on him, pray in his name, or to take him as an intercessor. He never commanded anyone to bow, prostrate, or stand in devotion to him. So how much more worship him? Yet others from amongst them—and they were the overwhelming majority—went to the extreme and deified him, saying he was the son of God, God Himself, or that he was the third of three: part of a Triune Godhead. Allah described what these disbelievers said in the Qur'an. He refuted each and every one of them. They remained upon that path for close to three generations.

Now let's take a look at what the Prophet Muhammad detailed about Jesus' return. He said:

“The Hour will not be established until you see ten signs: the Smoke, the False Messiah, the Beast, the sun rising from the West, the descent of Jesus the son of Mary, the Gog and Magog, and three tremors: one in the East, one in the West, and one in Arabia, at the end of which fire will burst forth from the direction of Aden, driving people to the place of their final assembly.”

I can only remember one time in church hearing Reverend Owens mentioning Gog and Magog, but I never really understood it. The second time I heard it mentioned was when I was in a class at the Temple there on South Orange Ave., of course while I was a member of the Nation of Islam (commonly known as the Black Muslims). They have a belief and [mis]understanding of the Gog and Magog which is 100% diametrically opposed to the correct belief mentioned

in the Qur'an and Prophetic Traditions. The Prophet Muhammad said in yet another narration:

“Allah (God) will send the Messiah, son of Mary, who will descend at the white minaret on the eastern side of Damascus wearing two garments, lightly dyed with saffron, his hands resting on the wings of two angels. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it. When he raises it up, beads like pearls will scatter from it. Every non-believer who smells him will die, and his breath will reach as far as he is able to see.”

This narration continues:

“He (Jesus) will pursue the False Messiah until he captures him at the gates of Lydda and kills him.”

For your information Lydda or Lod (a city mentioned in the Bible) is a mixed Jewish-Arab city about 10 miles southeast of Tel Aviv in the Center District of the so-called State of Israel.

The Prophet Muhammad also stated:

“Certainly, the time of prayer shall come, and then Jesus, the son of Mary, will descend and will lead them in prayer. So when he (the False Messiah) sees him, the enemy of God will [begin to] dissolve just as salt does in water.”

Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds, gave His Angelic Messenger, Gabriel, this information. Gabriel conveyed it to Allah's earthly Messenger, Muhammad, and he has informed us, via Divine Revelation, that Jesus will use a spear guided by Allah in this killing of the False Messiah by which the forces of temptation will be vanquished.

“Then, a people whom God had protected will come to Jesus, the son of Mary, and he will wipe their faces and inform them of their ranks in Paradise.”

In another narration, the Prophet Muhammad said:

“The son of Mary will soon descend among you and will judge justly (according to the Law of God), then he will break the cross and kill the pigs.”

And yet in another Prophetic narrative it mentions:

“By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, soon the son of Mary will descend among you as a just judge. He will break the cross, kill the pigs, and abolish the *jizyah*. Money will become copious, until no one will accept it.”

This will inevitably happen; he will be a “just judge,” ruling according to the Divine Islamic Law which will remain unabrogated. So my dear mother, Jesus will be responsible for a number of tasks. In the aforementioned narration it says, **“He will break the cross and kill the pigs.”** This means he will announce as forged the religion of the Christians by *actually* breaking the cross, not figuratively. He will refute the Christians’ claim to the divinity of his mother and himself. He will deny the worship, admiration, and veneration of the cross.

As for the Prophet Muhammad’s statement concerning Jesus that **“he will abolish the *jizyah*”**: it means that Jesus will no longer accept this *jizyah* from the Jews and Christian pagans as it was accepted from them by the Muslim rulers before his descent. Additionally, he will not accept anything from the disbelievers other than Islam; nothing

more... nothing less. And if any of them attempts to offer the jizyah that will not deter him from fighting against them. My dear mom, this will be a tremendous event! FYI, “jizyah” is the extra tax imposed on non-Muslims who live under the protection of the Muslim ruler.

“Money will become copious”: This abundance of wealth will be the result of the descending of blessings, the spread of justice, and the absence of oppression. At that time the earth will bring forth its riches, and the desire to possess wealth will diminish; they will know that the Day of Judgment is near. Then Jesus will die. The Muslims will offer the Funeral Prayer and bury him.

We Muslims believe that our respect, love, devotion, and reverence for Prophet Jesus is more than any Christian could ever have. Why? What’s the proof? Because we do not deify him as the Christians do, nor do we vilify him as the Jews do. We describe him as he was. What can be more honorable? Allah’s Final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, said:

“I am the closest of people to Jesus, the son of Mary, because there was no Prophet between him and me.”

The period of time between these two noble messengers was about 600 years. We believe that on the Day of Resurrection, Jesus will disavow the claims that he was a god, or that he was deserving of worship. Likewise the breaking of the cross has a figurative meaning which does not oppose the literal one. Not just the destruction of the physical crucifixes and crosses on the roofs of churches, temples, chapels, or even around the necks of adherents to these false beliefs which are symbols of blasphemy and polytheism, but

also the destruction of the fable that he was executed on a cross at the hands of some Romans at the behest of the Jews. Similarly, the slaughtering of the swine may be both literal *and* figurative: literally conducting a campaign to kill all pigs so the consumption of its meat becomes impossible, even preventing them from being purchased.

The Christians lied on Jesus. He strictly followed the laws of Moses in every way except where Allah repealed any given law—saying that he “blessed the swine”. Nothing can be further from the truth... may Allah forgive us!

In my next missive, I will tell you about an event that actually helped changed the course of world history. Take care and I'll talk to you later, if it is the Will of Allah, the Lord of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad—may peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all.

Dawud

Dawud ash'ib

P.S. give my regards to my aunts!

Letter 11

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Constantine, and How He Changed Christianity

As promised to you before—may Allah guide you and improve your condition—that one of the famous Roman Emperors by the name of Constantine—and Mom you can ask your live-in history buff about him—came along and entered the Christian religion. Some say he embraced it as stratagem to distort the religion.

Whatever the case, he helped transform and corrupt the true religion that was revealed to Prophet Jesus, making interpolations, adding things and taking things away. It was at the time of Constantine that pork was permitted and they began to pray towards the East; they made images in their churches, shrines and monasteries, and added ten days to their fasting because of a sin that he had committed, as they claim. The religion of the Messiah became the religion of Constantine. He built more than twelve thousand churches, shrines and monasteries for them, and the city that bore his name Constantinople (now called Istanbul). A faction of Christians followed him and they prevailed over the Jews with the help of Allah, because they were closer to the truth, even though all of them were disbelievers. As a result of outside influences entering into the true religion of Jesus—pure

Monotheism—Christianity has a self-inflicted wound called the Trinity! A belief that there are three gods: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit who are all co-equal, co-eternal, co-existing (at all times) and consubstantial. At this point, our discussions via [e]mail will now be focused on this crucial matter. Allah says in His Qur'an:

"It befits not (the Majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glorified (and Exalted) be He (above all that they associate with Him). When He decrees a thing, He only [has to say to it]: 'Be!' and it is."

[Mary 19:35]

For surely, if God wanted a son, He would have had a consort, a spouse, a wife of sorts, don't you think? And anytime there is something of fundamental importance in a religion like a belief system or credo, then proofs and evidences for it should be clear, explicit, and abundant. If it is fundamental, it should not be ambiguous, implicit, and scarce.

So Jesus—as I have mentioned in one of my earlier epistles to you my Christian parent—never, ever even hinted to his followers to worship him or even suggested that he was God the Almighty or equal to Him or the Holy Spirit, more appropriately called the Blessed Spirit, since as I've mentioned in other missives 'holiness' can only be attributed to the Lord of all that exists. If we turn to one of the most often utilized and quoted passages in the Bible to prove that the beloved Jesus and God are one—John 10:30: "*I and the Father are one*"—and pay close attention to its contextual importance—we will definitely see that this verse has other implications.

I mentioned to you about a young man I met on the Amtrak train who had just happened to have been a pastor at a church in upstate NY. He was also a graduate of a theological

seminary not far from his home and that church. During our almost two hour conversation, I mentioned to him that I found it interesting that he relied heavily upon the Gospel of John more than the other three, earlier Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Although I knew the reason, I didn't let on until further into the train ride. By the way, Mom, as a formal student of the Bible and undergrad student from a theological seminary, *he* also knew the reason. So this statement attributed to the noble Christ Jesus is only found in John and nowhere else. Similar to this passage are the others like "*before Abraham was, I am*" at John 8:58 and John 14:9: "*whoever has seen me has seen the Father*". Likewise, in this Gospel [of John] Jesus has been quoted as mentioning about him existing with the Father, God, prior to becoming human. This is what my riding companion on that train believed, and I'm sure this is what you believe also. But that young man was bound and fettered to what he learned in seminary and you are not. Since during his 4 or 5 year study of the Bible—specifically the New Testament—he knew full well that these self-assertions were not made by Jesus in Matthew, Mark or Luke.

What was the reason?! The reason is that he and thousands of other students all over the world, early on in their seminary studies, learn that the Gospel of John was a later development in the traditions of Christianity and therefore has the highest Christology. In the three other Gospels Jesus was more human but John desired for him to be more divine. So what did he do? He graduated him, or in computer science terms, 'upgraded' him. So when you look at those three and how they viewed the Messiah, you will see that he went from a man, to Son of Man, to Son of God, then in the Gospel According to John, to... GOD Himself! So in John's view he was a divine being who became human. As for

the context, then let's start from the beginning of the passage and what comes after it.

"Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?'

They replied: 'We are not stoning you for any good work,' they replied, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'

Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your Law, I have said 'you are gods?'' If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do

you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, I am 'God's Son?'" [John 10:22-36]

Now my dear mother, I hope and I am praying that you bear with me as you bore with me as a child. Give me your ears and listen to me attentively. When we look at these passages cumulatively, we see that Jesus is absolutely not God. Those amongst the Jews who were not ready to believe continued badgering Jesus to stop keeping them in suspense and inform them once and for all whether or not he was in fact the Messiah:

“The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’” [John 10:24]

The term ‘Messiah’ (in Hebrew ‘anointed’ and *Masih* in Arabic, meaning ‘rubbed’ or ‘wiped’ i.e., the one chosen and favored by God) or “Christ” (in Greek) is a title used in the Bible referring to a person who is made the King of Israel. The connotative meaning is “*chosen and specially honored by God.*” Consequently, the meaning “*anointed, distinguished and honored by God.*” We also find it being used in other places in the Old Testament for other individuals. Cyrus the Great, King of Persia—who by the way wasn’t Hebrew—was called ‘God’s Messiah’. I don’t know which translation of the Bible you are using these days, Ma, but you can find it at Isaiah 45:1. We find the ‘anointed one’ as the Son of Man in the Book of Enoch or commonly called I Enoch. The point is that the term ‘messiah’ is a title, and that is why Allah says in the Glorious Qur’an:

“[And mention] when the angels said, ‘O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of

**Mary—distinguished in this world and the Hereafter
and among those brought near [to Allah]..”**

[The Family of Imran 3:45]

That is, he will become well-known in this worldly life by that name and the believers will recognize him for that.

Returning back to John 10:30 in its context, the Jews were anticipating another messianic personality because their Torah had mentioned the coming of one. Thus, they asked Jesus whether he was that expected one. Jesus replied that he had already answered that inquiry. Please keep in mind, Mom, that many Christians of this 21st century have the opinion that the latter day followers of Jesus came to the conclusion that he was indeed the *Masih* (Messiah) because of his [assumed] demise and the so-called resurrection. But those Jews of antiquity had no anticipation that the messiah would die and have a miraculous resurrection. If you check their books Mom, you'll see that's not what they were expecting! They only saw the 'messiah' as a mighty ruler, a king, an extraterrestrial judge of some sorts. So Jesus replied that he already performed some signs and miracles—by the permission and might of Allah (God) and in His name—to verify his assertion of being the *Masih* (Messiah). *Thus:*

“Jesus answered, I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

[John 10:25-28]

Since 'eternal life' here means to have absolute belief, complete faith that the Father is the One and Only True God, AND that Jesus is the Christ, slave, servant and messenger of

that One and Only True God. Nothing more... nothing less! As a reference for this, ponder upon the following verses from the Mighty Qur'an. Allah says in the Qur'an:

"And [beware the Day] when Allah will say, 'O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah?' He will say, 'Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me—to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness. If You should punish them—indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them—indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.'"

Allah will say:

"This is the Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. For them are gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them, and they with Him. That is the great attainment." [Al-Ma'idah 5:116-119]

And in one famous narration, the Prophet Muhammad said to his Companions:

"Do not exaggerate about me as the Christians exaggerated about the son of Mary. I am only a slave, so say, 'The slave of Allah and His Messenger.'"

John states that Jesus supposedly said:

“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

[John 10:29]

Therefore, no one has the ability to pluck them away from Jesus because they were given to him by the ‘Father’, and the ‘Father’ is the greatest of all. Just as we Muslims every, single day—five times per day and night—when commencing the prayer, we raise our hands in the fashion of a person surrendering to law enforcement agents when told to come out of a house because there is no other way out. We say “Allahu-Akbar” i.e., Allah (God) is Greater than everything! In John 14:28 it states: “The Father is greater than I.” From the Noble Qur’an again we read that Jesus mentioned: “...it was not for me to say that to which I have no right...”

My dear, beloved mother—may Allah grant you complete guidance and eternal salvation—I ask of you now: Whose word should we take as ‘gospel’ truth? Should we take the word of the deacon or the minister? Should it be the word of the priest or the cardinal?! Should it be the bishop or even the Pope’s word? Or should we take the words attributed to Jesus himself?!

*“You heard me say, I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I **am going to the Father**, for the Father is greater than I.”*

[John 14:28]

Is Jesus returning to himself?!

Is Jesus coming back to himself?!

Is Jesus greater than himself?!

Did Jesus send himself to himself?!... Of course not!!

So the Jews were attempting to put words into Jesus’ mouth, in an attempt to use this against him in the future as a

proof against him so that they would have a reason to crucify him. So this statement that “I and the Father are one” is explaining to them that ‘I and the Father are one’ *in purpose*, not that I and God are one in essence or consubstantially! It is a figurative statement used countless times throughout the Bible especially the Old Testament, for if that is to be taken literally, then we are all ‘gods’, as Jesus is reported to have said in Psalms 82:6: “*I said, ‘You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High.’*” Rather, this was the manner of speech during those days. Figurative statements like “Son of God” and “Children of God” meant someone who was devout, pious and a true servant of the Most High.

Please ponder and reflect upon the following passages from your Bible:

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” [Hebrews 5:7]

“By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.” [John 5:30]

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” [Mark 13:32]

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” [Matthew 24:36]

These passages, and those similar to them, clearly, explicitly and without a shadow of a doubt indicate that the One above Jesus in hearing prayers, petitions, fervent cries,

and knowing the reason for weeping is someone else. *He* is the only One absolutely able to save someone from death. He is the only One who hears and answers supplications. He is the only One who can do anything, has power over everything and everyone that exists. He is the Ultimate and Most Decisive Ruler, the Judge of all Judges. He is the One whose total obedience and absolute pleasure is sought.

For if *He* is obeyed and pleased then eternal salvation is gained for the one who surrendered those acts of worship to *Him* lovingly, willingly, and with sincere glorification. My dear mother, this “One” who knows the Unseen and the exact time of the Hour, absolutely—according to these explicit passages—is *not* Jesus nor is he equal, comparable, or similar to the One he is referring to, but rather *He* (God) is someone who is singularly unique in His oneness, higher and more transcendent, greater, more powerful, more knowledgeable, more masterful, more magnificent, more capable than him! I now ask you, my dear mother, to ask yourself: who is *He*? It is for this reason that some Christians are looking at things a little differently. As John Shelby Spong, who was the Episcopal Bishop of my hometown of Newark, NJ for more than twenty years and the author of the book *‘Why Christianity Must Change or Die,’* said:

“the way we approach the Christ figure has got to be radically revised. Jesus can no longer be the incarnation of a theistic deity.”

In a future letter to you, my dear mother, I will be presenting some very important clarifications about the ‘Holy’ Trinity. Allah says in His Final Book to all mankind:

“They have certainly disbelieved who say, ‘Allah is the third of three.’ And there is no god [worthy of worship]

except one God. And if they do not desist from what they are saying, He will surely afflict the disbelievers among them with a painful punishment.”

[Al-Ma'idah 5:73]

I need to take a breather and I'll get back to you very soon, by the permission of Allah, the Kind, the Merciful.

Dannal adib

Letter 12

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The Trinity

Let's now take a closer look at this passage. I want you to get your Bible and that English translation of the Qur'an I gave you not too long ago and compare what I'm about to present. Very similar to those passages in your Bible regarding terrorism are statements that if read out of context would be very misleading, to say the least. As I have mentioned in one of my missives to you some time ago, anytime there is something of fundamental importance in a religion like a belief system or credo, then proofs and evidences for it should always be clear, explicit and abundant within the 'divinely revealed text'. Additionally, they should also be unequivocally, indisputably considered part of the religious book—since it is the 'inspired Word of God'—which can be utilized by their adherents as proofs and evidences for what they believe in and support their faith upon. If you and I truly consider ourselves pure monotheists and you reject that you are polytheist, then there should be no disputing with what I am about to present. And we should be easily able to come to an equitable agreement between ourselves. Allah says in His Final Book:

“Say, ‘O People of the Book (Jews and Christians) come to a word that is equitable between us and you—that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.’ But if they turn away, then say, ‘Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him].”

[The Family of Imran 3:64]

We say that the ‘Holy’ Trinity defies and contradicts the Qur’an, the truth of the Bible, sound reasoning, and religion. With regard to the word ‘trinity,’ then unbeknownst to most Christians it is not even mentioned one time in the Bible. As for the proofs employed by Christians for it, then they are of two types:

- Textual proofs
- Rational proofs

Allah says:

“O People of the Book (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah anything but the truth. The Messiah, son of Mary, was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary and a spirit created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: ‘Three (i.e., trinity)!’ Cease! (it is) better for you.”

[An-Nisa 4:171]

In this verse Allah referred to trinity and incarnation, and forbade both of these beliefs. Allah says that Jesus is only “a Messenger of Allah and His Word, (‘Be’—and he was) which He bestowed on Mary and a [blessed] spirit created by Him”. And He says, “so believe in Allah and His

Messengers,” then He says, **“Say not: ‘Three (trinity)! Cease! (it is) better for you.’”**

Regarding the textual proofs from the Bible itself, then let’s begin first with those that are implicit, whether they are from the Old Testament or New Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26 reads: *“Let US make man in OUR image.”* Here there are three plural pronouns, (We, Us, Our) used 6 different times in four different passages: Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8. The unanimous opinion of the apostolic Fathers was that the Father was talking to Jesus.

“Then Yahweh [on earth in human form] rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh [in spirit form in heaven] out of heaven.” [Genesis 19:24]

In the aforementioned text, Abraham is visited by three individuals, one being Yahweh and the other two, angels. Here we have God on the earth (Jesus) and God in Heaven (Father) sending down fire from heaven. This incident when Abraham met with Yahweh (God), is what Jesus referred to when he is reported to have said, *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”* (John 8:56) The unanimous opinion of the apostolic Fathers was that Jesus visited Abraham in Genesis 18 and 19.

Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah saw the glory of Yahweh, but John says that Isaiah really saw the glory of Christ. This proves Jesus is Yahweh. Combine this with the fact the Yahweh said,

“...who will go for US” is a plural pronoun indicating more than one person in the Godhead.

NEW TESTAMENT

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.” [John 1:1]

“For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” [John 8:15]

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” The Jews therefore said to Him, *“You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”* Jesus said to them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”* Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.” [John 8:58]

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” [2 Corinthians 13:14; Philipians 2:1-2]

The problem with all of these passages is that they are all implicit. Not one of them clearly states that the three are one which is key when discussing an integral, foundational doctrine!

That young pastor from upstate NY I had that conversation with on the Amtrak knows very well that these verses are ‘victims’ of a self-inflicted wound called *Johannine Comma*. For your information, this *Comma Johanneum* or

Johannine Comma is an (in)famous interpolation. Meaning, a single clause or phrase with comma in Ancient Greek rhetoric. It gives the sense of a series of additional words being inserted within the sentence. It is sad indeed, that this (in)famous Comma was first introduced in the 16th century by humanist Desiderius Erasmus in his 3rd and later editions of the Greek New Testament Bible. And the most widely distributed translation of the Bible, KJV, embraces the Comma afterward claiming that they are also inspired "Words of God". Nevertheless, internal and external evidence points the other way.

My dear mother, seminary Bible students have all probably learned that this could not have been found in the Greek manuscripts. Rather, what was actually there at I John 5:8 simply read: *"There are three that bear witness: the spirit, the water, and the blood, and these three are one."* There's no mention whatsoever of the Father, the Word and the Spirit. And even if they tried to use that part of the passage *"the spirit, the water, and the blood"* that would not be sufficient proof for a triune belief of God, Jesus and The 'Holy' Spirit being co-equal, co-eternal, co-existing at all times and consubstantial!

And for these reasons many of the ancient scribes of the distant past, like Erasmus, were berated by the theologians of their day. They accused people like him of attempting to eradicate the Trinitarian doctrine. They eventually did locate a passage in the Greek manuscript mentioning it. Unfortunately it was "made-to-order", produced by copying a

Latin text and translating it into Greek, which is why the Johannine Comma ended up remaining in the end! Allah says in the Qur'an:

“So woe to those who write the ‘scripture’ with their own hands, then say, ‘This is from Allah,’ in order to exchange it for a small price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.” [Al-Baqarah 2:79]

Thus, Allah warns those who change, distort, interpolate, add, and expunge passages, verses or chapters from the Book. Those who mistakenly and intentionally change laws, those who have betrayed the trust of knowledge and religion, with loss, punishment and doom on that tremendous day which is none other than the Day of Requital. They distorted the Book by adding and subtracting, and they said that this was from Allah, lying and fabricating to justify their false beliefs regarding three gods being one and Jesus possessing divinity. This was at the hands of Christians.

As for the Jews, then—amongst other crimes against God and the divinely revealed books—their rabbis were afraid of losing their livelihood and position of leadership when the Prophet Muhammad came to the city of al-Madinah. So they attempted to debar their own fellow Jews from accepting and believing in him, since they knew from the Book sent to Moses that he was expected to appear from the Arabian desert from the area of Mecca. Hence, they went to what they knew of his physical description in the Torah, where he is described as having a handsome face, with handsome hair, kohl-rimmed

eyes and being of average height, and they changed it, writing instead: Tall, blue, with straight hair. When their idiotic ones asked them about the characteristics of the Prophet, they read what they had written and said that he was different from this description, so they disbelieved him and rejected the Prophet Muhammad. So Allah said:

“Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands...” [Al-Baqarah 2:79]

In conclusion, my beloved mother, your entrance into Islam is a very simple matter and not difficult to accomplish. So now my dear mother, it is time take the next step. The time has come. Just repeat this very easy phrase. “I bear witness that nothing is worthy of worship as a deity in truth and with justification except Allah, I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and I bear witness that Jesus is a Servant and Slave of Allah and a Messenger.” Once you’ve announced and testified to that you will be a Muslim. You will receive from Allah in the Afterlife that which no eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard and no mind of any human being could ever possibly conceive. I ask Allah by His Greatest Name to allow this phrase to rest firm in your heart, to be exemplified upon your limbs and to be upon your tongue every day and night of your life until your death. O Allah, the Granter of gifts, Bestower of endless bounty, the One who guides, and when He guides, no one can lead that person astray.

I beg You—O Allah—to accept this supplication from me and keep me firm upon Your obedience and the Way

of Your Prophet Muhammad. May Allah bestow His peace and blessings upon all of His Prophets and Messengers and raise in rank His Final Messenger and Prophet sent to all mankind and jinn and grant him, his family, his Companions and his brothers peace and safety!

Danur Ashib

Letter 13

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Well, here I am again to continue our conversation. I heard on the news that the temperature there went down to 50 degrees! You guys must be freezing since you are accustomed to 70 and upward! For us here in the North, that's a pleasant day!

The Angels

Mom, I wanted you to know that we as Muslims have pillars of faith which total six in number. Whoever disbelieves in any of these pillars is not a true believer. Each of these six pillars of faith have a general description and a detailed description. The six pillars of faith are belief in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and belief in the Predestination, both the good and the bad of it. You and I have already been discussing the belief in Allah, so now I would like for us to move on in this epistle to our belief in this tremendous creation called the "Angels".

Angels are a part of the world which is hidden from our view, sometimes called the World of the Unseen. It is a world that we cannot see in this present life, nor fully comprehend. Allah has informed us about the angels in many places throughout the Qur'an. Likewise the Prophet Muhammad has mentioned much detail about them in his prophetic traditions. There follows a number of proven reports concerning the angels, which hopefully will make you realize the greatness of the Sole Creator, Owner and

Controller of everything that exists, and the magnitude of this perfect way of life, Islam, which has informed us of so many details about this wondrous creation. As for their creation, then we have been informed that they are created from light, as the Messenger of Allah said:

‘The angels are created from light, just as the jinn are created from smokeless fire; and mankind is created from what you have been told about.’

When we say “light,” we say that no right thinking Muslim is going to think of an electric light—like some of the young learners in my school immediately pointed to the ceiling and imagined that it was that—or even the light of the sun. For we were only apprised that their origin of creation was light. Hence, we do not believe they are holy, sacred, or even have above their heads a nimbus, or oft-times called a halo, since we have not been informed of such. We stop there. We are only allowed to say what is substantiated by those two forms of Divine Revelation: the Glorious Qur’an and the Prophetic Tradition. While mentioning this, Mom, I cannot help but to think about all those cartoons I and my brother, Wayne, used to watch on Saturday mornings showing those “shoulder angels and devils” (which we will get to soon in our discussion)!

We have no knowledge of exactly when Allah created them, because there is no divinely revealed text to tell us this. But what we do know, Ma, is that without doubt they were created before us human beings, because the Noble Qur’an says:

‘And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: ‘Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth.’” [Al-Baqarah 2:30]

The fact that Allah told them of His aim to create human beings indicates that the angels already existed. As for their ginormous dimensions, then Allah says concerning those angels specifically assigned to be caretakers of Hell:

“O you who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern and severe, who flinch not (from executing) the commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded.”

[At-Tahrim 66:6]

Jibril, Jibreel or Jibraa’eel

The greatest of all the angels is **Jibreel** (Gabriel) which in Arabic means “Servant of the One True God”. As Muslims, we believe that the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad, saw Jibreel in his true form. He had six hundred wings, each of which covered the entire horizon.

In another place he said describing Jibreel:

“I saw Jibreel descending from heaven, and his great dimensions filled all of the space between heaven and earth.”

I know I would have been terrified if I had encountered such a creature, wouldn’t you Mom? In addition, we have been informed that from amongst the greatest angels are those who carry the Throne of Allah. Since it is our belief that Allah has created seven heavens or firmaments and those seven firmaments just happen to be directly one right above the other. Over the seventh firmament is water—that is obviously not like our water—and above that is the mighty, majestic Throne of Allah. Holding up and carrying that tremendous creation, the Throne of Allah, are eight angels of whom the Prophet Muhammad said:

“I have been given permission to speak about one of the angels of Allah who carry the Throne. The distance between his [one angel’s] ear-lobes and his shoulders is equivalent to a seven-hundred-year journey.”

By the way, my dear mother, that calculation of a journey is not by our fastest, present day mode of transportation, but rather by way of what was used in the time of the Prophet Muhammad, 15 centuries ago: horse and camel. And of course you already know and believe from your Bible that these angels have wings. In the Noble Qur’an, Allah says:

“All the praises and thanks be to Allah, the (only) Originator of the heavens and the earth, Who made the angels messengers with wings—two or three or four. He increases in creation what He wills. Verily, Allah is Able to do all things.” [Al-Fatir 35:1]

Mikaa’il or Mikaaal

Then there is the angel Mikaaal (Michael) which in Arabic means “Servant of the One True God”.

“Say, ‘Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel, it is [none but] he who has brought the Qur’an down upon your heart, [O Muhammad], by the permission of Allah, confirming that which was before it and as guidance and good tidings for the believers.’ Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers and Gabriel and Michael, then indeed Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers.” [Al-Baqarah 2:97-98]

Incidentally, Mom, Muslims do not make any distinction between the angels regarding our sentiments towards them. We do not love some and hate others, since

they are all righteous believers and are absolutely obedient to Allah.

Another one whose name we have been told about via Divine Revelation is the angel **Israafeel** (Raphael) which in Arabic means “Servant of the One True God.” He is delegated and entrusted with blowing the horn to signal the commencement of the Day of Judgment. That will be the time when everyone will be commanded to emerge from their graves.

One of the things that is very interesting and enlightening, my dear mother, is that one night during the Blessed Month of Ramadan, I was sitting in the Grand Mosque in Mecca listening to a class being conducted by one of the great Islamic scholars of our time. He made a correlation between these three aforementioned noble angels—Jibreel, Mikaal, and Israafeel—and the concept of “giving life.”

This scholar said, while alluding to their occupations, Jibreel was responsible for bringing down the revelation to all of the divinely guided Prophets and Messengers. These revelations *gave life to the hearts* of their recipients: those who worship God Alone and obey the Prophets and Messengers. As for Mikaal, he is responsible for bringing down rain which produces vegetation, fruits, herbage and the like *giving life to the earth* after its death. Finally, Israafeel will blow the horn which will—by the Permission of Allah, the Ultimate Giver of Life—restore the souls to those who were in their graves, *thus giving life to them*. And all the praise and thanks is only for Allah, the Lord of all the worlds!

These three angels are considered archangels: they are major in their rank. For this reason, when the Prophet Muhammad used to awaken in the middle of the night to

perform his optional prayers, he complemented to his prayer the following supplication:

“O Allah! Lord of Jibreel, Mikaal, and Israafeel, Originator of the Heavens and Earth...”

These angels have been endowed with extreme attractiveness, while having no sexual gender whatsoever. They do not get bored or tired of remembering and worshipping Allah. They do not eat or drink. They possess tremendous speed. They have been given the ability to take on different forms of other creatures of Allah by His Command and Decree which are forms other than their own.

As when Allah sent Jibreel to Mary—the Blessed Mother of Jesus, the Messiah, born of the Immaculate Conception—in the form of a man, as Allah says:

“...then We sent to her Our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.” [Mary 19:17]

Angels also came to Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) in human form. He did not know that they were angels until they told him so. Angels came to Prophet Lut (Lot) in the form of young men with beautiful faces. Likewise, Jibreel (Gabriel) used to come to the Prophet Muhammad in different forms. While other angels are responsible for conducting an interrogation of the people in their graves, asking them three vital questions. These three questions, I am praying and begging Allah that you will be able to answer properly:

1. Who is your Lord; (i.e. who did you take as a deity to worship)?
2. What is your religion?
3. Who is your Prophet?

I pray that we all will be able to pass the test and questioning with ease and no difficulty whatsoever!

These creatures are also extremely fast. The fastest speed known to man today is the speed of light. As for the speed of the angels, then they are able to travel much faster than this. In the time of the Final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, people used to ask him a question, the questioner would not be able to totally complete the question posed to the Prophet, except that Jibreel (Gabriel) would bring the answer from Allah who is above the highest heavens.

Now mother, keep in mind that Allah has created seven heavens as I mentioned before. The closest one to us takes five hundred years of travel to the second one directly above it, then another five hundred, then another five hundred and so on until reaching the seventh heaven. So think about the speed of the Angel Jibreel (Gabriel) coming with an answer from the Lord "on high"!

Then there are **guardian angels** who are responsible for protecting the human being during his life: while he's home, upon a journey, while asleep, and when he is awake. Others are responsible for recording the deeds of man, the good and the bad.

Hopefully, I will get back to you in another letter talking more about the jobs of these mighty, heavenly angelic messengers of God.

Wow, I didn't realize what time it was. I gotta get to the Laundromat. Talk to you all later!

Dannal Aslib

Letter 14

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

What's up Ma, how are you fairing down there? Guess what? I spoke to Aunt Francis the other day. I didn't know she was sick. I'm going to have to make my way over and visit her as soon as possible. May Allah guide her and improve her condition!

Angels II

Remember in the last correspondence we were talking about the jobs of the angels? Okay, as for their varied tasks, then you should know my dear mother—may Allah (God) guide you and repair your situation—there are so many angels with other occupations and responsibilities. Independent volumes have been written on the subject.

The angel responsible for taking people's souls at the time of death is appropriately called **the Angel of Death**. Although some people have given him the name of **Azrael**, this is not substantiated in the Glorious Qur'an nor within authentic traditions from the Prophet Muhammad. Therefore we cannot accept or reject this name.

Anyway, the job of this angel is to remove the souls of the human beings: believers and disbelievers, the pious and the wicked, the obedient and the wretched. There are some people whose soul is taken forcefully; they undergo great pain and torment when it is extracted, while some people's souls are taken gently. The Qur'an mentions:

“By those (angels) who pull out (the souls of the disbelievers and the wicked) with great violence; By

those (angels) who gently take out (the souls of the believers).” [An-Nazi‘at 79:1-2]

As for the souls of the disbelievers, which are taken out violently, they are then plunged into the Fire—may Allah protect us from all of that.

As a side note, Ma, included in our belief in the “Unseen World” is the belief in the existence of devils and spirits called *Jinn*. The chief of those devils is *Shaytaan* (Satan); his proper name is *Iblees*. Our belief in this creature, Iblees, is that he was definitely not one of the angels. This is established from four main aspects: The obvious, explicit, divinely revealed texts of the Noble Quran, the Pure Prophetic Tradition of Muhammad, the physical characteristics of Iblees, and his manners. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the angels—unlike the devil and his ilk—is that they do not have free-will. Therefore, we do not believe that Satan (or Lucifer as he is called in the Bible) is a “fallen angel” since angels cannot disobey Allah even for a nanosecond! In the next letter—if you are up to it—I will share with you our belief in the next pillar of faith: the belief in the Divinely Revealed Books of Allah.

See ya!

Damir ash'ib

Letter 15

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

It is really, really hot outside today. Thank Allah for overhead fans!

The Divine Books

As promised, let's now talk about the next pillar of faith, which is the belief in His Books or divinely revealed scriptures.

As Muslims, our belief in the Books implies four things:

I. Unyielding belief that all of the divinely revealed scriptures were revealed from Allah, and that Allah spoke them in a real sense. We believe, Mommy, that the Qur'an is the actual Word or Speech of Allah, as you as Christians believe the Bible is. But there are some glaring differences in the reality of our beliefs. We believe that the Noble, Majestic, Glorious Qur'an is not only the Speech of Allah, but it is also uncreated: the letters and sounds are from Him. Therefore, the Qur'an is an attribute from amongst His many attributes. What we hear, read, and recite every day is not the speech of any angel, human being, or jinn, rather His direct speech. Unlike the Bible, the Qur'an mentions itself many places in the Book as the Speech of Allah (God) and denies that it is the speech of any created being.

In fact, Mom, until I embraced Islam, I never even realized that the very word Bible is not mentioned even once within the Bible itself from Genesis to Revelation. Rather, the term came long after the writings were completed and

assembled! This is something I found to be very, very strange: that a book which is believed to be the “divinely inspired speech” of the All-Mighty does not mention itself by name anywhere between its two covers!

Ma, although you raised me to believe in the Bible as God’s Holy Word, I never really understood why it was supposed to be such, nor did I have any proofs as a young man to back up my beliefs. If you were to take a close look at the Bible, you will notice that there are three types of “speech” contained between the two covers. The first is what is considered the Word of God, the second is the Word of a Prophet, and the third is the Word of a Historian.

2. As Muslims, we must believe in every divinely revealed scripture which Allah has mentioned by name. What follows is a list of the Books which Allah has mentioned by name in the Qur’an: the Scriptures of Ibrahim (Abraham), the Tawrat (Torah), the Zaboor (Psalms of David), the Injeel (Gospel), and the Qur’an.

As for the divinely revealed Books which have not been mentioned by name, but have only been mentioned in a general sense, we as Muslims must believe in them in general terms. We say concerning them what Allah and His Messenger have commanded us to say:

“Say (to the people O Muhammad): ‘I believe in what Allah has sent down of the Book...’” [Ash-Shura 42:15]

3. Confirming what the Books mention, such as what is said in the Qur’an. The same applies for whatever has not been altered or distorted in the previous Books. Because we believe that the book presently called the “Bible,” does contain some

of the original word of Allah; we believe in those things which have not been changed.

4. Firmly believing that Allah revealed the Qur'an as a witness over the previously revealed Books, and likewise as a confirmation for them. The Qur'an mentions:

“And We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) the Book (this Qur'an) in truth, confirming the Scripture that came before it and trustworthy in highness and a witness over it (old Scriptures).” [Al-Ma'idah 5:48]

Allah says about the Jews:

“Do you (faithful believers) covet that they will believe in your religion in spite of the fact that a party of them (Jewish rabbis) used to hear the Word of God (the Tawraat), then they used to change it knowingly after they understood it?” [Al-Baqarah 2:75]

When Muhammad was sent, the original Tawrat (Torah) and Injeel (Gospel) had already been altered and distorted. Allah revealed the Qur'an to His Prophet Muhammad and guaranteed that He Himself would preserve it, as He says:

“Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an, and surely, We will guard it (from corruption).” [Al-Hijr 15:9]

This distinguishing feature was not found in any divinely revealed text before the Glorious Qur'an. From the time of Muhammad until the present—more than fourteen hundred years—the Qur'an has stayed the same. Not a single letter has been changed. It is preserved and memorized in the hearts, generation after generation. Arabs and non-Arabs, young and old, men and women alike have put it to memory, word-for-word from the front cover to the back cover! As for

the other form of divinely revealed text called *hadeeth* (also spelled hadith), which are the statements, actions and tacit approvals of Prophet Muhammad and which is separate from the Noble Qur'an, then there is no confusion between the two whatsoever, even though they are both from one source: Allah, the All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Thus, my dear, beloved mother, the Qur'an has literally stood the test of time as the true, unadulterated Word of God, whereas the Bible has not, since there is a litmus test for a book to be considered divinely inspired or revealed. One of the most important litmus test points is that the book cannot contain any self-contradictions, admixtures, interpolations, plagiarisms, forgeries or discrepancies at all. Not even one! And since we know and all agree that we will ultimately stand in front of Allah (God) to be judged for everything we say and do, we have to be truthful and sincere in our speech and behavior. No matter how much knowledge and understanding mankind attains, they will still inevitably make mistakes, forget things, or fall short. If the Qur'an were not the word of Allah, there would be some *actual* contradictions and shortcomings in it. Allah says:

“Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein many a contradiction.” [An-Nisa 4:82]

It is free from any shortcomings, errors, or contradictions. Indeed, all of it is wisdom, mercy and justice. Now I ask you, my mother, to be patient with me as you have always done as a loving, caring mother, and let us objectively and without any biases whatsoever look at the Bible to see for sure that it is in fact inerrant in everything it states and teaches.

Before commencing, I believe the first question should be: which Bible will we use?! Do we use the King James

Version, New International Version, New Living Translation, New American Standard or New Revised Standard Version? There are literally dozens of translations.

Let's go back to that young man I met a few months ago while traveling to the upstate NY area to a weekend class. Remember the one I encountered on the Amtrak; the pastor who had graduated from a seminary? As a student of religion, he was very perplexed throughout our conversation when we engaged each other on the historical aspect of the Bible—especially the New Testament—as opposed to the devotional aspect of the Bible. On at least two occasions he was totally dumbfounded. The reason was that he knew full well that there were dozens and dozens of inconsistencies and unexplained areas that even his professors could not provide adequate answers to his fellow classmates. He was well aware, from a scholastic point of view, that Christians had none of the originals of any of the books of the New Testament. He knew that the copies that they had were made much later, in fact many centuries later.

He was fully aware that out of the Four Gospels, the one he was going to rely on the most in our conversation was the *Gospel According to John*. That's because he knew from his theological studies at seminary that the first three Gospels present the picture of a developmental story of Jesus and not the original story. He knew that the *Gospel According to John*—which contains the highest Christology (Christian view of Jesus)—was chronologically the last one to be written. It was the only one which mentions that Jesus was the only begotten son of God. If this “fact” was so important, why did not the other three Gospels mention it also? That's why it is important to know what the information *is* before deciding to cite what the information *means*. Allow me to mention the

verse in the Glorious Qur'an again for you, my dear mother, where Allah (God) says:

“Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein many a contradiction.” [An-Nisa 4:82]

Please, *please* keep in mind, it is not my intention to bash the Bible, Mom, but rather to just give you a few examples of glaring problems therein. Here are three of the numerous examples of contradictions, discrepancies, or inconsistencies:

1. Who incited David to count the fighting men of Israel? At 2 Samuel 24: I it says God did, but at I Chronicles 21: I it states that Satan did.

2. In that count how many fighting men were found in Israel? Eight hundred thousand (2 Samuel 24:9) One million, one hundred thousand (I Chronicles 21:5)

3. How old was Ahaziah when he began to rule over Jerusalem? Twenty-two (2 Kings 8:26) Forty-two (2 Chronicles 22:2).

Thus, when I presented to you a few years ago an English translation of the meaning of the Qur'an, it was with the intention to familiarize you with the book that has no mistakes, since it is not the speech of any created being, rather it is the Speech of Allah, the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal! It is the word of the Lord of the Worlds, which Allah revealed to His Messenger Muhammad in order to bring mankind forth from darkness into light:

“It is He who sends down upon His Servant [Muhammad] verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darkneses into the light. And indeed, Allah is to you Kind and Merciful.”

It is not a set of manuscripts that were penned down by people who lived centuries later, eventually becoming a book. Nor was it written by people who were not even eyewitnesses to those events. Rather, it is Allah who has let us know in the Qur'an the stories of the earlier and later generations and information about the creation of the heavens and the earth. Many of those stories and events, we would have never, *ever* known about. Nations, people, places that had details about them which, before the Qur'an, historians were unaware of! Allah has explained in detail what is lawful and what is unlawful, the basics of good manners and morals, the rulings of worship and interacting with others, the lives of the Prophets and the righteous, as well as the reward and punishment of the believers and disbelievers. He has described Paradise, the dwelling of the believers. He has explained the Hell-Fire, the dwelling of the disbelievers. He has made the Qur'an an explanation of all things:

“And We have sent down to you the Book (the Qur'an) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims).” [An-Nahl 16:89]

The Qur'an explains the names, qualities, characteristics, descriptions, and attributes of Allah. It explains what He has created, which is totally and absolutely unlike Him. This Book calls us to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers and the Last Day:

“The Messenger (Muhammad) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. (They say,) ‘We make no

distinction between any of His Messengers'—and they say, 'We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all).'" [Al-Baqarah 2:285]

The Qur'an describes the Day of Judgment and what will happen after death: the Resurrection, the Gathering, the Judgment, and being brought to account. It also describes other affairs of the Unseen world like the Cistern, the *Sirat* (the bridge over Hell), the Balance [in which deeds will be weighed], the blessings and torment, and the gathering of mankind on that great Day. It has stood the test of time as the true word of God given to His Final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad.

Now we go to the discussion of the next pillar: the Belief in the Prophets and Messengers. I really think, Mommy, that a good place to start is with what exactly a prophet and messenger is according to Islam. Maybe we'll chat about this in my next missive to you.

Take care.

Dawud

Dawud ash-Shaykh

Letter 16

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Prophets & Messengers

Back again! Okay, now where did we leave off? Oh yes, messengers and prophets according to Islam.

Messengers were those who Allah (God) sent to a disbelieving people, while prophets were sent to a believing people with the religious laws of the Messenger who came before them, teaching their people and judging between them, as Allah says:

“Verily, We did send down the Torah [to Moses], therein was guidance and light, by which the Prophets, who submitted themselves to Allah’s (God) Will, judged for the Jews.” [Al-Ma’idah 5:44]

So the Prophets of the Children of Israel judged by the Torah which Allah (God) had revealed to Moses. Thus we know that there is no Messenger and no Prophet after Muhammad. He was the last of the Prophets and Messengers. So all of those individuals—male and female—throughout history who have claimed to be a prophet, prophetess, or messenger are either deluding the masses or they are themselves victims of self-delusion. I recall many times getting on a city bus while growing up and seeing advertisements mentioning people, usually women, being ‘prophets’. And

then of course, those vile men who claimed, explicitly or implicitly, prophethood during our present day and time.

Examples of these self-proclaimed prophets are: Marcelino Manuel da Graca otherwise known as Daddy Grace, Father Divine, James F. Jones otherwise known as Prophet Jones, Elijah Muhammad, Noble Drew Ali, Kareem Agha Khan, Rashid Khalifa, Dr. York, and now Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam claims he is a messenger of God.

In the true religion of Islam, Messengers are sent to deliver a Message. They are the ones to whom Allah has sent down revelation; they convey His Law to mankind. Allah ordered them to deliver these Messages. The first Messenger to be sent was Noah and the last was Muhammad. Allah said, what translated means:

“Indeed, We have revealed to you, (O Muhammad), as We revealed to Noah and the prophets after him...”

[An-Nisa 4:163]

One of the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad narrated that the Prophet said, during his comments about the right of intercession on mankind’s behalf that Allah grants to His Messenger on the Last Day:

“Mankind will go to Adam to intercede on their behalf but he will decline, saying: ‘Go to Noah, the First Messenger that Allah sent...”

Also, Allah said:

“Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the Messenger of Allah, and the Last (end) of the Prophets.” [Al-Ahزاب 33:40]

Allah sent Messengers to every nation and provided them with Laws that their nations must follow. Some

Messengers were sent to revive a Message of a previous Messenger. Allah said:

“And verily, We have sent among every nation a Messenger (proclaiming): ‘Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid all false deities.’” [An-Nahl 16:36]

The Messengers are only humans and they do not possess any attributes that qualify them to be gods. Allah described His Messenger, Muhammad, the master of all Messengers and the best of mankind, saying:

“Say (to them, O Muhammad): ‘I possess no power of benefit or harm to myself except as Allah wills. If I had the knowledge of the Unseen, I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me. I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings unto people who believe.’” [Al-Araaf 7:188]

Allah also says:

“Say (O Muhammad): ‘It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you to the Right Path.’ Say: (O Muhammad): ‘None can protect me from Allah’s punishment (if I were to disobey Him), nor should I find refuge except in Him.’” [Al-Jinn 72:21-22]

The Messengers were only humans. They got sick and they died. They ate and they drank, and they had other human needs. Abraham described his Lord, saying, as was mentioned in the Qur’an:

“And it is He Who feeds me and gives me to drink. And when I am ill, it is He Who cures me; And Who will cause me to die, and then will bring me to life (again).”
[Ash-Shura 42:79-81]

Also, the Prophet Muhammad used to say to his Companions:

“I am only human, just like you. I forget as you forget, therefore, when I forget, remind me.”

Allah described the Messengers, while praising them, that they reached the highest attainable degrees in worshipping Him. He said about Noah:

“Verily, he was a grateful slave.” [Al-Israa 17:3]

About Muhammad, He said:

“Blessed be He Who sent down the Criterion (of right and wrong, this Qur’an) to His servant that he may be a Warner to all mankind and everything that exists.”

[Al-Furqan 25:1]

And about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He said:

“And remember Our slaves, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, (all) owners of strength (in worshipping Us) and (also) of religious understanding. Verily, We did choose them by granting them the Remembrance of the home (in the Hereafter). And they are in Our Sight, verily, of the Chosen and the Best.” [Saad 38:45-47]

About Jesus, He said:

“He was not more than a slave. We granted Our favor to him, and We made him an example to the Children of Israel.” [Az-Zukhruf 43:59]

Our belief in the Messengers has four aspects, two of them I will mention in this missive and follow up with the other two in the next. The first aspect is that we believe that the Messengers are truly from Allah. Whoever disbelieves in one Messenger will have disbelieved in all the Messengers. Allah said:

“The people of Noah belied the Messengers.”

[Ash-Shu’ara 26:105]

Allah considered the people of Noah disbelievers in all Messengers, although they only disbelieved in one Messenger. And this is key, Mom, so listen very closely. The Christians, who disbelieve in Muhammad and do not follow him, are actually disbelievers in Jesus, the son of Mary. One of the reasons is that Jesus foretold and conveys to his followers the glad tidings of the coming of Muhammad. But this glad tidings will be of no benefit to the Christians if they do not follow Muhammad upon the Straight Path.

The second aspect is that we believe in the Messengers whom we were told about, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (peace be upon all of them). These are the five strongest and greatest of all the Messengers. Allah mentioned them together in two verses of the Qur'an:

“And (remember) when We took from the Prophets their Covenant, and from you (O Muhammad) and from Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, son of Mary.”

[Al-Ahzab 33:7]

and,

“He (Allah) has ordained for you the same Religion (Islam) which He ordained for Noah, and that which We have inspired in you (O Muhammad), and that which We ordained for Abraham, Moses and Jesus, saying you should establish Religion (by implementing the Commandments) and make no divisions in it.”

[Ash-Shura 42:13]

Additionally, we must also believe in all of the *other* Messengers and Prophets of whom their names were not *specifically* mentioned to us in the Qur'an, but were in fact true Prophets and Messengers:

“And, indeed We have sent Messengers before you (O Muhammad) of them some We have related to you

their story and some We have not related to you their
story.” [Al-Ghafir 40:78]

Danial Adib

Letter 17

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Greetings, Mother! What's happening! I really, truly appreciate you allowing me to engage you in these conversations pertaining to my beliefs and religion, Islam. Because you know it is oft-times difficult to speak to your parents because they were the ones who fed you, cleaned your bottom, and the like.

Prophets & Messengers II

Okay, back to the Messengers and Prophets. The third aspect as it relates to our belief in Prophets and Messengers is that as Muslims we believe in all of what the Messengers have conveyed to us.

The fourth and last aspect of our belief in the Prophets and Messengers, is that we implement the Laws of the Messenger who was sent to us. Muhammad is the Final Messenger. Allah (God) sent him to all mankind, irrespective of color, language, gender, race, or nationality. His legislation overrides and abrogates those that came before:

“...by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad) a judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.” [An-Nisa 4:65]

I really do not desire that these letters to you, my dear Christian parent, be like lessons, nor am I intending to be scholastic in my approach to explain these important matters, as I am speaking from my heart of hearts. It springs from my deep natural love for you as my mother, my beginning in this worldly, mundane, temporal life. You are now older and have lived a lengthy life filled with happy times and sad times. Those sad times—as well as the happy ones—are only temporary, while the life after death is eternal with absolute bliss or extreme torment and punishment.

I ask Allah to grant us Paradise and save me and my family and all those who follow right guidance from the extreme torment and punishment.

Food for thought until pen meets paper again.

Take care!

Dannal Aslib

Letter 18

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The Last Day

Hey Mom, I was thinking the other day about one of the very essential Pillars of Faith in Islam: to believe in The Last Day. It is the Day of Resurrection, the Day of Standing, the Day of Judgment, and the Day of Reckoning. It is a Day unlike any other day. Its many names indicate the magnitude of that inevitable situation. Within the Qur'an there are numerous verses which speak about the Day of Judgment. Every Messenger warned his people about this day, saying:

“Indeed I fear for you all the punishment of a tremendous day...”

It is a day when everyone will become selfish. No one will think about *anyone* else. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“O mankind, fear your Lord. Indeed, the convulsion of the [final] Hour is a terrible thing. On the Day you see it every nursing mother will be distracted from that [child] she was nursing, and every pregnant woman will abort her pregnancy, and you will see the people [appearing] intoxicated while they are not intoxicated; but the punishment of Allah is severe.” [Al-Hajj 22:1-2]

Allah also says in the Qur'an:

“On the Day a man will flee from his brother, and his mother and his father, and his wife and his children. Every man, that Day, will have enough to make him careless of others. [Some] faces, that Day, will be bright, laughing, rejoicing at good news. And other faces, that Day, will be dust-stained; darkness will cover them. Those are the disbelievers, the wicked ones.”

[Abasa 80:34-42]

There is a lot Ma that I can mention about our belief concerning the Day of Judgment, but for now I want to emphasize to you that nothing will benefit a person on this day except a wholesome heart and righteous deeds. No one's wealth nor progeny will help them when they die. Rather we will all be questioned about our actions: what we did and what we did not do, what we said and what we abstained from saying, what we believed and what we chose not to believe.

Never forget, the most important thing we've been commanded with is to worship the One All-Mighty Allah (God) Alone, ascribing no partners to Him whatsoever. Every supplication, every prostration, every vow, every small and large act of worship must be done solely for the One All-Mighty Allah (God). He does not resemble His creation; rather He is unique in every way. He is the Creator of everyone and everything. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“And fear a Day (of Judgment) when a person shall not avail another, nor will intercession be accepted from him, nor will compensation be taken from him, nor will they be helped.” [Al-Baqarah 2:48]

In the Qu'ran it mentions that Abraham said:

“And do not disgrace me on the Day they are [all] resurrected. The Day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail, except him who brings to Allah a clean heart...” [Ash-Shu’ara 26:87-89]

Mom, this clean heart is the heart which is free from all manifestations of polytheism, disbelief, hypocrisy, philosophies and superstitions. Allah says in the same chapter of the Qur’an:

“And Paradise will be brought near [that Day] to the righteous. And the (Hell) Fire will be placed in full view of the erring. And it will be said to them: ‘Where are those (the false gods whom you used to set up as rivals with Allah) that you used to worship. Instead of Allah? Can they help you or (even) help themselves?’ Then they will be thrown on their faces into the (Fire), they and the (devils, and those who were in error). And the soldiers of Iblees, all together. They will say while contending therein, ‘By Allah, we were truly in a manifest error, when we held you (false gods) as equals (in worship) with the Lord of all that exists; and no one misguided us except the evil-doers. Now we have no intercessors, nor a close friend (to help us). (Alas!) If we only had a chance to return (to the world), we shall truly be among the believers! Verily! In this is indeed a sign, yet most of them are not believers. And verily, your Lord, He is truly the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.”

[Ash-Shu’ara 26:90-104]

Mom, please, please contemplate deeply over these verses, for indeed they contain a glimpse of what will occur to all of those human beings who have been given a soul!

*Time to go row, Ma. And guess what? Your youngest granddaughter just received
her first new permanent teeth!*

Daniel Ash's

Letter 19

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The Pre-Decree

When I got word that Daddy ate that hotdog containing the deadly bacteria called *Listeria* which caused him to be hospitalized, the news was tremendous. Even more tremendous was the fact that for 14 days he suffered in the VA hospital then died: fourteen days of pain and suffering. He died simply because of the negligence of a major food company. A simple bacteria that caused his blood pressure to go up which made him have a stroke. It was like yesterday I remember you saying "Your father really liked hotdogs" and I agreed with you. I also remember you attributing his death to yourself, saying "had I not given him that hotdog, this wouldn't have happened."

My dear mother, we could converse at length about the Islamic view of the Divine Will, Pre-Decree and Ordination, but to make the subject easier to understand, we will start with an overview of this topic, then explain as much as space permits, asking Allah (God) to benefit us thereby and to accept our efforts.

There are occasions in my adolescent years where I remember you, Mom, mentioning believing and accepting the "Will of God". I also remember you reminding me that nothing happens except by His Will and there is nothing we can do about it since He is in control of everything. You

should know—and may Allah guide you to being His true worshipper—as Muslims, we *also* share this belief. Belief in Allah's (God) Pre-Decree is the sixth and final pillar of faith. No one's faith is complete without it! For those who ascribe to Islam as a way of life, they have to believe in this Pre-Decree in the following manner:

First, we believe that Allah knows all things, in general terms and in detail, from eternity to eternity. Not a single atom is unknown to Him. There is nothing that He is unaware of or doesn't know its origin in the heavens or on earth. Second, we believe that Allah has decreed all things in a Book that He has with Himself. This Book, also known as *Al-Lahw Al-Mahfooth* (the Preserved Tablet) includes every detail about everything that will ever be. It does not resemble any book that we have ever seen or imagined! Third, we believe that Allah's Will is irresistible and His Decree is comprehensive. Nothing happens in this universe, good or bad, sweet or bitter, except by His Will. Lastly, we believe that everything that exists is created by Allah. He is the Creator of all beings and the Creator of their qualities and actions:

“Such is Allah, your Lord! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Creator of all things.”

[Al-An'am 6:102]

We as Muslims, unlike adherents of other religions, believe that a person's will and ability do not operate outside the Will and Decree of Allah, Who is the One Who has given him that ability, allowing him to choose between good and evil:

“And you cannot will unless (it be) that Allah wills, the Lord of all that exists.” [At-Takwir 81:29]

The Divine Pre-Ordination is Allah's plan for His

creation. What He has shown us of it, we know and believe in, and what He has hidden from us, we accept and believe in. As Muslims we do not have any disagreement with Allah concerning His actions and rulings with our minds which are limited, rather we believe in Allah's complete justice and wisdom. He is not to be asked about what He does. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“He is not to be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned.” [Al-Anbiya' 21:23]

One of the most difficult affairs of life connected to this belief is death. When Daddy died and the way he died I had no choice but to accept it and embrace that Allah had taken his life. I loved your husband, my father. I loved him dearly and had hoped that he would have embraced Islam before his death, but he didn't. At the same time, it would not be respectful to Allah to say, “Had I not done such-and-such, such-and-such would not have happened” or “Had she not said that *this* way, he would have not responded *that* way”.

Everything Allah (God) wills and allows to happen does not necessarily mean that He is pleased with it. If something occurs that is seemingly evil, it would be totally improper to attribute it to Him (God). You and I have lost someone very dear to us, Mom. He was an excellent provider and obviously a good husband and father. I miss him and cry sometimes when something reminds me of him like the way I walk, hold my hands behind my back, my shoe size, and the shape of my head.

Mom, this belief does not oppose the idea that a person has free will: he can choose whether or not to do things that he is able to do of acts of worship or sinful deeds. Every human being has the will and ability to choose between doing

what he wants and abstaining from that which he dislikes. If he desires guidance, he will make the effort to traverse the straight path. And if he wants for himself misery and wretchedness, he will traverse the paths of polytheism, disbelief, innovation, and wickedness.

The human being has the ability to choose to do certain actions, such as walking, talking, eating, and laughing. However, there are many things which the human has no control over: when he's cold his body shivers, when he's hot he sweats, and so on. Thus, the will and power of man are subject to the Will and Decree of Allah. The entire universe is Allah's Dominion; nothing can happen in it without His Knowledge and Will. Thus, Daddy's death was the Divine Decree of Allah. The Prophet Muhammad was seen crying at his mother's grave. His tears were not out of displeasure toward Allah's Decree, but because she died before he could introduce her to her Lord. He could not beg Allah to forgive her!

This is a summary of our belief in the Divine Decree and Pre-Ordination. If it is Allah's Will, I'll write you another letter giving you more details.

Take care, Mom.

Dannal As'ad

Letter 20

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

How are you and my aunts doing, Mother? I hope they are doing well.

The Pre-Decree II

I hope you are ready to hear more details about our belief in Allah's Pre-Decree. Okay let's begin. In Islam, Allah's Decree is divided into two categories: **Universal** and **Legislative**.

First: His Universal Decree: The irresistible Will of Allah that affects everyone and everything.

Second: The Legislative Will which applies only to that which Allah loves and is pleased with. Legislatively, Allah wants everyone to worship Him. A revelatory proof of this aspect of the Will of Allah, Allah says:

"Allah wishes to accept your repentance." [An-Nisa 4:27]

There is a stark dissimilarity between these two wills. Pay close attention to them, Mom. First, the Universal Will has to do with that which Allah loves and is pleased with, *and* with that which He does not love and is not pleased with. Whereas His Legislative Will only has to do with that which He loves and is pleased with, those things which He legislated and revealed.

His Universal Will must certainly without a doubt occur, such as a person's birth or death. On the other hand, His Legislative Will—such as Allah wanting everyone to

become true Monotheists worshipping Him without ascribing partners or associates with Him—does not necessarily happen. It may materialize or it may not.

If it were unavoidable that it should come to pass then Daddy, all four of my beloved grandparents, and all of mankind would have embraced Islam before their deaths and became Muslims. So when someone accepts Islam as his way of life then both of the two wills come together. The one who prays in the prescribed, divinely revealed manner, as mentioned in the Qur'an and exemplified by His Final Messenger, combines both. Why is that, you may ask? It is because prayer in the divinely revealed way is beloved to Allah; He has enjoined it, is pleased with it, and loves it, so it is prescribed by His Legislative Will in that sense. But the mere fact that it happens indicates that Allah willed that it should happen, so it is decreed by His Universal Decree in that sense. Therefore the two wills are combined in the case of one who worships Allah.

His Universal Will is at work on its own in the case of the disbelief of a Jew, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu etc. this also includes the sin of the disobedient Muslim. The fact that these things happen indicates that Allah willed that they should happen, because nothing happens except by His Will. But the fact that Allah does not love them and He is not pleased with them indicates that they happen by His Universal Will, not by His Legislative Will. So no one will be able to say he robbed a bank and connect it to that aspect of His Will. The rapist will not be able to say "it was God's Will" connecting it to His Legislative Will. This type of thinking is incorrect and will never be accepted by Allah or any rationally thinking person!

His Legislative Will is at work on its own in the case of a Christian who starts to believe, or a sinning Muslim who

repents and begins to obey Allah. Why? These things are beloved to Allah so they are included under the category of His Legislative Will. The fact that they do not happen—even though Allah has enjoined them and loves them—indicates that they come under His Legislative Will only. I hope very much that you are following me, Ma! Everything that Allah does is good, wise, and just. He is never, ever ignorant, oppressive, nor does he do something that is bad or evil. Allah does what He does for reasons that are known to Him Alone. We will be questioned about what we do, while He is not asked concerning what He wills and causes to occur. He, Allah, is the One from whom all aid and help is sought!

I truly miss Daddy but there is nothing that can be done now that he is gone.

Danish Ashif

Letter 21

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The Pillars of Islam

I believe I would be totally remiss if I do not mention the Pillars of Islam. Keep in mind Mom, these are not to be confused with the Pillars of Faith I've already told you about in some of my other epistles to you. The latter are six in number while the former are five.

The Prophet Muhammad said:

“Islam is built upon five pillars: the testimony that none deserves to be worshipped but Allah Alone, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, to establish the prayer, to give charity, to make the pilgrimage to the House, and to fast the month of Ramadan.”

These are the “Five Pillars of Islam”:

The First Pillar includes two parts: worshipping Allah alone and also believing that Muhammad was sent as the Final Messenger to all of mankind; he should be obeyed and followed, not worshipped.

The Second Pillar is to perform the five daily prayers. As Muslims, we believe that our purpose on this earth is to submit to Allah's Will by worshipping Him Alone. One of

the greatest ways of worshipping Allah (God) (and the very first action to be questioned about) is by performing the five daily prayers in a manner that He has legislated: once after dawn, once at midday, once in the afternoon, once after sunset, and once in the evening. Details about how and when to perform these daily prayers is found in the Qur'an and the Prophetic Tradition.

The Third Pillar is Obligatory Almsgiving. In Islam giving charity is very important. We even believe that the poor people have a right to our wealth. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“And from their properties was [given] the right of the [needy] petitioner and the deprived.”

[Adh-Dhariyat 51:19]

This third pillar, however, refers to an annual percentage of a rich person's wealth which is given to the impoverished person.

The Fourth Pillar is the yearly fast, which takes place during the month of Ramadan. “Ramadan” is the actual name of the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar. During this month, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, abstaining from food, drink, sexual intercourse, and all types of sins. It is a month of worship and prayer.

The Fifth Pillar is the obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca, once in a lifetime, for the one who has the ability to do so. Each year millions of Muslims from all over the world gather in Mecca to pray to One All-Mighty God. People from all over, from

different countries and socio-economic backgrounds, come together with a single goal: to please their Lord and to fulfill this important pillar of our religion. This is the pillar you offered to assist me to perform back in 1981, but all praise is due Allah I was able to fulfill it without your help. I really, truly appreciate the thought and will never forget it.

These are the Five Pillars of Islam.

Danush Ashiq

Letter 22

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy..

What a Wonderful Religion!

My dear mother, I know quite well that you are familiar with Ramadan, the fasting that takes place therein and the celebration we have after the 29 or 30 days of abstaining from food, drink and intimate relations with one's spouse during the daylight hours. On a couple of occasions you were confused when Ramadan arrived because you were 'calculating' it based on the solar instead of the lunar calendar. One time, when I informed you that we were fasting, you innocently said, "I thought it was in July," not knowing that it was determined by the moon instead of the sun.

One of the countless beauties of Islam is that it contains a practical solution and answer to every single problem. It completes the very nature of the human being. I have likened it to a 'one size fits all' way of life. Islam continues to be successful in the industrialized world and elsewhere, because its call is in harmony with the natural dispositions of human beings, and it promotes the best of human values, such as true honesty, dignity, tolerance, love, compassion, mercy, truthfulness and earnestness.

Islam instructs people and elevates them to righteous conduct, good manners, and virtue. Islam is distinguished from other religions by its practicality, balance, and temperance. Islam pays close attention to both the soul and

the body. It doesn't subdue physical desires nor allows folly in this regard; it points out the dissimilarity between the natural inclination to relish the pleasures of this world and forbidden desires that come under the heading of immorality and perversion.

Islam is the religion of the natural disposition, the natural inclination or pattern on which Allah has created mankind. It is that religion that, if a child were born in a forest or a jungle and abandoned by his mother with no outside influences swaying him this way or that way, he would eventually and essentially worship Allah alone, with no partners, ascribing nothing to Him whatsoever. He would be upon Islam. The Messenger of Allah said:

“Every child is born in a state of natural disposition (i.e., Islam), then his parents make him into a Jew, a Christian, or a Magian (Zoroastrian).”

What is meant is that Allah has created mankind with the potential to learn the truth, accept pure monotheism, and submit to Allah. Their natural inclination is to learn Islam and love it. However, the outside influences divert them away from the pleasure of their Lord. These influences include: a corrupt teaching, an environment of disbelief, the caprices and yearnings of the soul which whispers incitements to utter evil and commit evil acts, and last, but definitely not least, those devils among jinn and mankind that turns one away from that which is correct and true. The human being is basically apt towards pure monotheism, as the Prophet (may Allah raise him in rank and grant him peace) reported that his Lord (Allah) said:

“I created all my slaves as pure monotheists, but the devils turned them away from their religion.”

Therefore, Ma, every aspect of Islam that is purely religious in nature or has a social or even political implication eventually will lead that person to worship his true Lord and God in the most perfect manner. In Islam everything is connected. For example, the daily prayer keeps the human being in constant contact with his Maker and Creator who knows him best, since He is the One who created him in the first place. Allah says in the Noble, Majestic Qur'an:

“Does He who created not know, while He is the Subtle, the Acquainted?” [Al-Mulk: 67:14]

So when he enters into prayer he is now in an intimate conversation with his Lord, as the Prophet Muhammad has informed us. He is in a state of humiliation and attentiveness. He will feel calm and secure. Why Mom? Because he is seeking the strongest connection one can have: the connection to Allah—Glorified and Exalted is He. For this reason, the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad used to say: **“Let us find relaxation and joy in prayer.”**

If something distressed him, he would hasten to pray. Everyone who finds himself confronted with a hardship, calamity, or adversity and then he performs prayer—performing it with a pure intention, seeking to please Allah alone and performing it correctly according to the Prophetic Traditions of Prophet Muhammad—will find strength, endurance, and solace. That is because he is reciting the words of his Lord which he has memorized from the Final Testament sent to mankind: The Magnificent Qur'an. These words cannot be compared to the effect of the words of a created being. Thus, this act—when done sincerely and properly—will remove all of the sins one commits every day and night. So when the Muslim prays his formal prayers it is

like a stream he crosses to get to his home. In fact, Mom, the Prophet Muhammad asked the question of his Companions one day:

“What do you think if there was a river by the door of any one of you and he bathed in it five times a day, would there be any trace of dirt left on him?” They said, **“No trace of dirt would be left on him.”** He said, **“That is like the five daily prayers, by means of which Allah erases sin.”**

Now Mom, let us look at charity, which is one of the pillars of Islam, as mentioned in previous correspondence. Charity called *Zakah* purifies the soul from stinginess and miserliness. It causes people to become accustomed to generosity and helping the poor and needy. It will bring a great reward on the Day of Resurrection, just like other forms of worship. It is only 2.5% from every thousand of his annual accrued wealth, which the sincere Muslim pays willingly and does not try to evade or wait until someone chases him for it.

Fasting involves refraining from food and sex for an appointed time. It is a form of worship and a way in which one can feel the hunger of the deprived. It is also a reminder of the blessings of the Creator, and it brings rewards beyond measure. The Muslim not only strives to stay clear of those affairs—which at any other time would have been permissible—but also refraining from looking lustfully at the opposite sex, cheating, lying, backbiting and slandering, being deceptive in anyway whatsoever, and more. Actually Mom, refraining from eating, drinking and sexual intercourse with one’s spouse during the daylight hours is the least one can do. That is, it is the lowest form of the fast. For the Prophet Muhammad has stated:

“Whoever does not give up false speech and acting upon it, Allah has no need of his giving up his food and drink.”

In other words, Mom, Allah does not simply mean that we should give up our food and drink when fasting. Rather He wants us to fear Him, because He says in Glorious Qur'an:

“...that you may become of the God fearing, pious.”

[Al-Baqarah 2:183]

Hence what is meant by “false speech and acting upon it”—is lying, and acting upon it means doing what is implied by that. So the fast of the Muslim as legislated by Allah is the most unique type of fast known to mankind. It is complete and most beneficial for the human being's growth and development in every way.

Hajj is the Pilgrimage to the sacred House of Allah, which was built by Prophet Abraham, (upon whom be peace). With every step and each ritual there is the utterance of Pure Monotheism, coupled with the glorification and magnification of Allah (God). Actually, within this pillar—the fifth pillar of Islam—one will be able to locate all of the other four pillars. No other pillar has this unique feature. Thus by performing Hajj one is obeying the command of Allah and the call to come and meet Muslims from all over the world.

My newly adopted religion of Islam commands all kinds of good and forbids all kinds of evil. And since Allah is the Creator of everything and knows everything and is aware of everything in its finest detail, whatever He commands or strongly suggests, then there is absolute goodness in it for the human being in his worldly life and the next. Likewise, if He

forbids or strongly discourages a thing, then whether we see and understand the harm or not, it will eventually cause us great harm or destruction in the life of this world and damnation or great regret in the Afterlife.

Islam promotes and encourages good manners and proper treatment of others. It commands good characteristics such as truthfulness, patience, deliberation, kindness, humility, modesty, keeping promises, dignity, mercy, justice, courage, patience, friendliness, contentment, chastity, tolerance, trustworthiness, gratitude for favors, and self-control in times of anger. All of these and more are easily found in the Book of Allah or in the perfect example of His Last Messenger to mankind, Muhammad.

Islam commands the Muslim to fulfill his duty towards his parents, to uphold family ties, to help the needy, to treat neighbors well whether they are Jew, Christian or pagan, to protect and safeguard the wealth of the orphan, to be merciful towards the youth and honor and demonstrate respect to the old. In Islam, there is no need for a 'senior citizen' complex.

Islam teaches its adherents to be kind to animals; therefore there is no need for an ASPCA. One time when the Prophet Muhammad saw a horse panting with pain, smoke emitting from his nostrils—as one of his numerous miracles—he asked the horse who had branded the animal on the face. The horse responded with the reply of its owner, so the Prophet said: **“Do not brand upon the face but rather on the backside.”** I am not absolutely sure Mom, but he may have been the first person to do this, brand the hind quarters of an animal instead of the face, and Allah knows best. Furthermore, the Prophet's Companions said:

“We were with the Messenger of Allah on a journey, and he went to go to the bathroom. We noticed a bird with two chickadees and we took away her chicks, and the bird started flapping her wings. The Prophet came and said: ‘Who has upset this bird by taking her children? Give her children back to her.’”

Mom, do you remember that apartment I lived in in East Orange? It’s the one down the street from where Grammy and Grandpa lived? Well, I had a problem with mice, so I contacted some of the scholars of Islam by phone to ask them what would be the best way to get rid of them. My main concern was killing by fire. So I had three options in front of me at the time:

- Get rid of them with the sticky trap.
- Get rid of them using those snap traps.
- Get rid of them utilizing those little green blocks that have the bait in them.

I didn’t want to use the sticky traps or glue boards because I had noticed at least two things: they would squeal a lot in an attempt to get loose which indicated to me that they were enduring some type of suffering. I also couldn’t take the sound. Additionally, Mom, it may take three to five days for an animal to die. Most often death comes from a combination of exhaustion, dehydration, and starvation. Moreover, Mom, sometimes these small pests will gnaw off their trapped limbs in an attempt to escape.

As for the snap traps, then these are even more obvious. Sometimes, they may not be set properly—and when that happens, mice may be able to grab the bait without triggering the trap... or they may be injured and left to suffer, rather than being quickly killed. And then there was the

possibility of a small child getting hurt or maimed from the trap. And I know you would not like to have fingerless grandchildren, would you Mom?

Lastly, were the blocks and pellets and this was the real reason I called those scholars overseas—especially since we don't have any scholars here in the US despite what some may contrive. Anyway, I had already known how these traps work. These kinds of traps cause internal hemorrhaging usually driving them outdoors to search for water, ending their life in a few days. My concern was not allowing the animal to suffer. You must know Mom, that these types of animals in Islam are considered amongst the vermin. In fact, the Arabic word the Prophet used to describe them was 'fawaysiqah' (literally: little evil ones) which is a metaphor because of their evil nature. In spite of all of that, we still must treat them as kindly and humane as possible. The Prophet Muhammad stated:

“...thus when you kill, kill well and when you slaughter, slaughter well. And let one of you sharpen his knife and spare suffering to the animal he slaughters.”

*I will continue with some of the beautiful virtues of Islam in the next missive,
Mom. Take care.*

Your son,

Danish Adib

Letter 23

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

What a Wonderful Religion! II

How are you today Mom? I hope you and my aunts are enjoying those exotic perfume bottles I sent you. They are really beautiful, aren't they? Speaking of beauty, let's get back to discussing those beautiful virtues and merits of Islam. This wonderful religion commands its adherents to remove harmful things from the road. Now this may seem like something very small, but it is very expansive in its application. For this reason it is considered an act of faith. Can you imagine that, Mom? Removing a harmful object from the road is an act of faith?

If you and I are riding down the street and there is a plank of wood in the lane, then it would be virtuous for me—provided I don't put my life or anyone else's life in danger—to pull over and remove that piece of wood from the middle of the street. How many times has someone tried to steer clear of an object lying in the road and caused a serious accident? On the other hand, leaving something in the road since the person sees something that can cause a potential harm and he leaves it there is not a good thing to say the least.

Likewise, blocking the path can also be a meritless act: for instance, during our Jumu'ah prayer—you already know about this from me mentioning it over the last forty years—which occurs on Friday. Unfortunately, many of our

mosques in America don't have adequate parking spaces. As a result, sometimes a Muslim congregant may park his car blocking others from getting back to work after the sermon and prayer have concluded. If one does this, then this can be taken as a dearth of faith because he has placed a 'harmful' object—his car—in the road; preventing an individual from getting back to work to earn a living and feed his family. Allah has stated in His Book:

“And when the prayer has concluded disperse within in the land and seek from the bounty of Allah and remember Allah often that you may succeed.”

[Al-Jumu'ah 62:10]

Islam promotes speaking kind words, pardoning at the time when one has the chance to take revenge, sincerity towards one's fellow-Muslims and non-Muslims alike, meeting the needs of the Muslims, giving the debtor time to pay back what he owes, supporting the one who is oppressed, giving gifts to friends, honoring one's guest, kindness amongst spouses, and spending generously on one's family.

Regarding the neighbor, then this noble religion has the most perfect etiquettes known to mankind. The Prophet said:

“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him honor his neighbor.”

In another prophetic narration it states that he said:

“Jibreel (Gabriel) kept advising me of the rights of neighbors so much that I thought he would make them my heirs (sharers in a part of inheritance given to a family member).”

Thus if it is a custom that neighbors tend to each other's needs, like if I am going to the supermarket and my

neighbor says to me: "Bring me such and such"—fruit or food and the like—then there is nothing wrong with doing that for my non-Muslim neighbor, because that is part of honoring one's neighbor as I've mentioned previously.

Therefore, as a virtue of Islam, seeking the pleasure of Allah and worshipping Him by way of honoring my neighbor, I can buy things they need, such as food, clothing and so on when going out to the store, provided those items are not impermissible like idols or religious statues, pork, pornographic material, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, intoxicants, gambling tickets, etc. It is even permitted to pay the bills for them since the neighbors' rights over me are great and important without doubt. Islam has dictated that it is the right of my neighbor over me that I don't stare at his womenfolk, or be treacherous in any way whatsoever towards him or them. Islam prohibits backbiting, slander, and exposing the secret faults of others even if they be Jews, Christians or pagans.

This easygoing religion of Islam also demands from us to seek permission before entering another person's house. As Muslims we are not allowed to enter into someone's home without their consent. And if we are visiting someone it is a part of Islam to not stand directly in front of their front door. Rather the Muslim will stand towards the side of the door or turn their back towards the front door. The reason is that the house is a kind of covering for those living within. Sometimes a small child may accidentally open the door and expose the inhabitants of the home in a manner that is not befitting for a 'stranger' to see. One's wife or husband may be wearing clothing that exposes those body parts a spouse, child or sibling may be allow to see but not allowed for a stranger or friend. So Islam considers all of these factors beforehand. And

if the person does not want to be bothered and they say go away, then it is one of the manners of Islam to go away.

If we look, Mom, at what Islam has proscribed i.e. prohibited, we will discover that it is always in the best interests of both the individual and society as a whole. All these prohibitions serve as a protection of the relationship between the slave and his Lord and Master, Allah, and the relationship of the individual with himself and the other members of society. As I have mentioned before, Islam never proscribes something unless there is some detriment to one's body, mind and/or soul and ultimately their Hereafter.

Islam forbids cancelling out good deeds by showing off, boasting or reminding others of one's favors; bowing or prostrating to anything other than Allah; sitting with hypocritical individuals or immoral people for the purposes of enjoying or keeping their company; and invoking the curse or wrath of Allah on one another or damning one another to Hell. Moreover, it forbids urinating into stagnant water. The people of old only knew that these types of acts were filthy and therefore stayed away from doing it. They realized that this type of behavior was repugnant to a civilized person. Likewise, but even worse, was defecating on the side of the road or in places where people seek shade for rest or where they draw water. This great religion addresses these affairs in detail. Little did those people know that diseases like *schistosomiasis*, also known as snail fever or *bilharzia*, is a disease spread by contact with water that contains the parasites.

Islam came to prohibit men from imitating women and vice versa in any way, shape, form or fashion, whether that is with behavior, mannerisms, or clothing and adornment; they are equally forbidden from any type of imitation. The

men of Islam are forbidden from the extravagance of wearing gold or silk, which are exclusively for females. Likewise, Mom, men cannot wear necklaces or bracelets. Both are considered for women and women only. It is not allowed in Islam for Muslim men to be naked in front of anyone except their spouse. Muslim men are not allowed to expose their private areas or even their thighs to anyone, including other men or even their own children.

Similarly, Mom, when children reach the age of seven, their beds have to be separated. Separating the beds means giving each boy and each girl a separate bed, even if they are in the same room, because one being with another in the same bed may be a means that leads to immoral behaviors like homosexuality, lesbianism, and incest. The religion of Islam has come with the highest of morals, manners and behaviors.

Everything under the sun has been addressed. Every problem has been solved, every questioned answered. How does a man or woman properly divorce from each other? Islam explains how. Where do the children go when that occurs? Islam explains where! What is the status of a baby that is breastfed by a woman other than its mother? Like that woman you told me about that lived on your block where you grew up. She was a wet nurse and according to what I remember you telling me she fed at least a dozen babies in the neighborhood! Islam teaches us that there should be a record for that since if that woman feeds that child five full sucks, then that child becomes an actual child to the woman and a sibling to each and every one of her naturally born children!

Can a person enter into a 'rent-to-own' contract regarding a house or car? Islam has the answer! What happens when a Muslim finds a bag filled with hundreds of \$500 bills? Islam has the answer! BTW, I bet you didn't even know there

was a \$500 bill, huh Mom? President William McKinley is on that bill.

Islam is the true religion that teaches the human being to fulfill his trust and keep his promises. Our Prophet Muhammad has informed us that:

“There are four characteristics, whoever has them all is a pure hypocrite: when he speaks he lies, when he makes a promise he breaks it, when he makes a covenant he betrays it, and when he disputes he resorts to obscene speech. Whoever has one of them has one of the characteristics of hypocrisy, until he gives it up.”

He has also stated:

“Whoever breaks the covenant of a Muslim, upon him be the curse of Allah, the angels and all the people, and Allah will not accept any obligatory or supererogatory act of worship from him.”

And again in another narration he said:

“Allah will set up a flag for the betrayer on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said: ‘This is the betrayer of so and so.’”

All of these manners and behaviors are found in Islam. All of these excellent qualities and virtues can be found embodied in one man and one man only: Muhammad, the son of Abdullah, the Final Prophet and Messenger sent to all of mankind! In the next communiqué, Mom, I would like to give a terse overview of the man who personified all the noblest traits a human being could possess. That man was the greatest man in history and it behooves you get to know, love and follow him.

Danish Adil

Letter 24

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

A Response to Your Email

Times are becoming more evil and dangerous as I just read in the news: another senseless, brutal attack at the hands of those who ascribe themselves to the beautiful religion of Islam. So with that I want to remind you of something you sent to me some time ago.

About 6 years ago, Ma, I received an email from you where you asked me what was my position on this and do I hold the same sentiments. I never replied to you since I wanted to gather my thoughts after fully reviewing what was said and not answering without forethought and deep contemplation.

This is the text of the full email you sent me:

This is very interesting and just a bit scary... The Muslim religion is the fastest growing religion per capita in the United States, especially in the minority races!!!

Allah or the Lord Jesus Christ? by Rick Mathes

Last month I attended my annual training session that's required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faiths, who explained each of their beliefs.

I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. The Imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video. After the presentations, time was

provided for questions and answers.

When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked: 'Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a Holy Jihad [Holy War] against the infidels of the world and, that by killing an infidel, (which is a command to all Muslims) they are assured of a place in heaven. If that's the case, can you give me the definition of an infidel?'

There was no disagreement with my statements and, without hesitation, he replied, 'Non-believers!'

I responded, 'So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can have a place in heaven. Is that correct?'

The expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of 'a little boy who had just been caught with his hand in the cookie jar.' He sheepishly replied, 'Yes.'

I then stated, 'Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Dr. Stanley ordering all Protestants to do the same in order to guarantee them a place in heaven!' The Imam was speechless!

I continued, 'I also have a problem with being your 'friend' when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me! Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah, who tells you to kill me in order for you to go to heaven, or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to heaven and He wants you to be there with me?' You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Needless to say, the organizers and/or promoters of the 'Diversification' training seminar were not happy with Rick's way of dealing with the Islamic Imam and exposing the truth about the Muslims' beliefs.

In twenty years there will be enough Muslim voters in the U.S. to elect the President! Please pass this on to all your e-mail contacts.

This is a true story and the author, Rick Mathes, is a well-known leader in prison ministry. The Man who walks with God always gets to his destination.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Now you can either delete it or pass it on. No wishes, or promises or threats—just a choice.” [End of email]

Now I would like to address some matters in this story point by point, but first, it is very important to mention some preliminaries to you, whom I owe great respect and devotion. It is well-known that there are some Muslims who have been misguided and misled into thinking that Islam condones and demands revenge killings. You will hear it being said by some of the grossly misguided individuals:

“The governments of the West take the lives of innocent Muslims in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, the Philippines and other lesser known places of the world. Therefore, it is justified for us to conduct the revenge killings of infidels—innocent or guilty of such atrocities—and any Muslim who happens to be amongst them and complies with their way.”

You should know my beloved mother that if we were to look in the Glorious Qur'an, the authentic, sound, verifiable Prophetic Narrations (called Sunnah or Hadith), or

if we look back into history from the time of Prophet Muhammad himself and the time of his disciples—of whom we call the Companions—you will not be able to find one shred of evidence—whether it is a statement, action or tacit approval if understood in its proper context—for such statements or behavior. In reality, the opposite is the case and I would like to present some examples:

1. When a woman who happened to become aware of the Prophet Muhammad's favorite part of meat from a sheep, and attempted to assassinate him by inserting poison into the shank of that animal—the poison which took the life of one of his companions and ultimately took the life of the Prophet Muhammad—he did not take revenge or retaliate against the Jewish people because the woman was Jewish, nor did his companions do so. In fact, Mom, his Companions asked him: 'Should we kill her?' The Prophet Muhammad emphatically replied: 'No'
2. When Umar, the Son of Al-Khattab who was the leader of the entire Muslim world at that time—was assassinated by a Persian Magian (Zoroastrian), the Muslims did not retaliate by going out and murdering Magians indiscriminately.
3. One of the Muslims during the Caliphate of Abu Bakr returned to him from a conquest carrying the head of a Roman general and Abu Bakr, the leader of the entire Muslim world at that time and who preceded Umar, the Son of Al-Khattab, condemned this. For your information, Mom, Abu Bakr was the successor of Prophet Muhammad after his death and first caliph to rule the Muslims. The man said: "O Successor of the

Messenger of Allah, verily they do this to us (i.e., cut off the heads of those who oppose them)!”

Abu Bakr retorted: “Thus it is the practice of the Persians and the Romans. Do not bring me a [decapitated] head. It is only the Book (The Qur’an) and the (Prophetic) narrations which suffices us”.

So it is crystal clear that these revenge killings or executions are not sanctioned by Islam nor condoned by Allah, the Qur’an, Prophet Muhammad or any sane, rational, God fearing Muslim. Compare this with what happened to thousands of North West African Muslims in 1922 who were beheaded at the hands of French Christians. Not only were they beheaded, they were photographed and their pictures placed on a postage stamp for the entire world to witness!

Of course, and as I have mentioned to you in the not so distant past, any verse or passage of the Glorious Qur’an pertaining to fighting or war can be misused, misunderstood, misconstrued, or taken out of context. Likewise, we find verses in the Bible that many of those who ascribe to Christianity employ the same way. Take, for example, the Pogroms conducted by the Iron Guard in Romania, Christian led IRA in Ireland, to Christian anti-Abortionist groups, Christian Knights of the KKK, Posse Comitatus, and the Aryan Nation here in the USA. Anyone can take a passage out of context and use it to suit their warped, corrupted ideas and ill-intent to maim, deform or kill someone they don’t agree with. Take this biblical verse for instance:

“Blessed is he who takes your little children and smashes their heads against the rocks.”

or this one:

“O God, break the teeth in their mouths... Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime; like the untimely birth that never sees the sun... The righteous will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.”

and this one:

“But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.”

No, this is not from the Noble Qur’an or Islam, all of these are from the Bible. And there are many, many passages to add to them! So, I ask, why are so many news journalists, Christian preachers and politicians, and news commentators swayed to believe that the Qur’an is a guidebook of hate and terrorism? For if we were to compare these passages from the Old and New Testament to that which is found in the Qur’an we would become very pale indeed. So context means a lot, Mom. In fact, context is everything, since many of these seeming cruelties vanish when read in their proper contextual order.

Nevertheless, my dear mother, I really will not prevent a “devout” Christian terrorist from giving his own exegesis of the Bible in a method needed to create a “holy” rationalization for appalling horrors. An example of this is Pope Urban II. When, for example, he preached the First Crusade in 1095, or as many Christian ministers and preachers here in America used to do when they used Leviticus to defend slavery after the slaves were brought over on a ship named “Jesus”.

A few years ago one of our renowned present day scholars by the name of Dr. Rabi Al-Madkhali who lives in the city of Madinah, Saudi Arabia responded in defense of attempts to defame the Prophet Muhammad through cartoon

drawings and accusations of terrorism. This is what he had to say:

In the Name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

All praises are due to Allah, and may Allah exalt the status of the Messenger of Allah, and that of his family and his companions, and may He grant them peace.

To proceed: Some newspapers and other forms of media have spread hurtful, vicious information that could only emanate from the jealous, arrogant enemies of Islam and its Prophet (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace).

That conduct comprises a calumny of Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah and a distortion of his message by jealous individuals and Christian organizations, as well as envious and irresponsible columnists, like those who write for the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten.

Its writers mocked the best of Mankind and the most distinguished of the Messengers, Muhammad (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace), the likes of whose nobility, honor, justice, and manners the earth has never known of. Neither has it known of a more complete and comprehensive message than his, nor a more just and merciful one.

It is a message that embraces belief in all of the prophets and messengers, honoring them and defending them from calumny and defamation. It has also preserved an accurate history of the prophets, including Jesus and Moses. So whoever disbelieves in Muhammad and speaks of him in a derogatory manner has disbelieved in all of the prophets and disparaged all of them.

Recently, some uncivilized miscreants made fun of the Prophet, drawing various pictures of him. Twelve despicable pictures, one of them portrayed him (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) wearing a turban resembling a bomb on his head.

We say to these criminals and their envious supporters in Europe and America: You are blaming others for your very own crimes!

Let it be known that never did Muhammad (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace), nor his righteous successors or any of his honorable companions, ever establish factories for even the most primitive of weapons, like swords and spears, let alone atomic bombs, long-range missiles, or any other weapon of mass destruction.

Never did Muhammad (may Allah raise his rank and grant him peace) build a single weapon factory. Rather, he was sent as a mercy for the entire creation, to guide all Mankind towards happiness in their worldly lives and in their Hereafter, such that they fulfill their Creator's right upon them, for it is He who created them to worship Him Alone. Whoever rejects this is truly a criminal deserving punishment in this life and the next, by the Lord of all that exists, the Creator of this universe and its Master.

As for you, O Westerners, claimants of civilization, you have constitutions and statutes that destroy upright moral character and permit all kinds of forbidden acts, the likes of fornication and homosexuality, as well as usury which destroys the economies of entire nations, and the eating of improperly slaughtered animals (dead meats) and pork,

something that causes the loss of concern for women's values, and thus a man does not feel protective of his wife, sister, or daughter, and thus she fornicates with or intimately befriends whomever she pleases. These are some of the means which lead to ruin, and they have been prohibited in all of the prophetic messages.

As for bombs and all other weapons of destruction: war planes, tanks, and long-range missiles, you are the ones who engineered and manufactured them with your satanic minds that only think about transgression, animosity, oppression, attacking, tyranny, conquering entire races of people and enslaving them, spilling their blood, and usurping their natural resources. You think only about annihilating those who oppose you and stand in the way of your greedy aspirations, your oppression and spreading of hatred. All this wrapped up in the name of civilization, human rights, freedom, and justice!

All intelligent people know this about you. For your dark history is overflowing with uncivil and terrorist acts, a history recorded against you by both your enemies and allies alike.

Anyone who does not know this should read about your history and your occupation of numerous nations, or at least read the history and some horrible results of your two World Wars. For example, the number of fatalities in the First World War in Europe reached "More than 10 million, and they were the elite of their nations' youth. And more than twice this number had incurred serious injuries disabling them for the rest of their lives."

The number of soldiers killed in the Second World War reached: "17 million, along with another 18 million civilian fatalities—all of them killed within a period of only five and a half years. Experts have estimated that the military expenses alone reached \$1.1 trillion, and that losses caused by the war reached the value of \$2.1 trillion. Added to this are the number of entire cities destroyed, the amount of earth scorched, the agriculture that was flooded, and the factories and plantations that stopped production, not to mention the number of livestock that were destroyed or lost." [(*Al-Harb al-'Aalamiyyah ath-Thaanayah* by Ramadhaan Land, p. 448-449) (Lit: The Second World War)]

The Hiroshima Bomb

Stated the author of the book, Al-Harb Al-'Aalamiyyah ath-Thaanayah (p.446-447) (Lit: The Second World War), "And perhaps it is appropriate to speak about this first atomic bomb. Let us relay what was reported directly from one of the Japanese in his interview with Marcel Junod, a representative of the Red Cross, speaking about the reality of this most frightening explosion. He said: "...and suddenly there appeared these intense, muddy pinkish lights, accompanied by an unnatural tremor. This was immediately followed by an asphyxiating wave of heat and violent winds that ravaged everything in their path.

Within only a few seconds, thousands of people who walked the roads or sat in the city's main streets were burned alive. A great number were then killed by the intense heat that spread all over. Others were left lying on the ground screaming in pain with deadly burns all over their bodies. Anything that had been at the point of impact—walls, homes, factories, and other buildings—was

completely and totally annihilated, with all traces of these things sent hurling into the sky in a ghastly whirlwind. Trams were plucked from their steel tracks and flung as if they had lost their weight and substance. Trains were lifted off the ground along with their tracks as if they were mere toys. Horses, dogs, and livestock were all befallen with what befell the people. Every living thing had lost its life in one painful turn of events too difficult to describe. Trees were engulfed in blazing fires, rice fields lost their color, and farms crackled and burned away like dry straw.

As for the surrounding areas that escaped instant death: Homes were crumbled and only piles of wooden boards remained amongst bricks and stone foundations. Everything was crushed as if they were cardboard houses in a zone of destruction 10 kilometers in diameter. Those who survived found themselves totally surrounded by raging fires. The few people who managed to get to any type of shelter in time died painful deaths from gamma radiation within 20 to 30 days. By nightfall on the day of the blast, the blaze slowed down and then died out, finding nothing left to fuel it. Hiroshima had passed away into nothingness.”

These are some of the landmarks of your civilization that you sing and boast about, and become insolent towards Islam and its Prophet with. Yet you continue intensifying every form of oppression and corruption and you go on inventing more and more weapons of destruction, annihilation, and devastation, and this—by Allah—is the utmost limit of barbaric and animalistic behavior.

“Or do you think that most of them even listen or use their intellects? They are only like cattle, rather, even more astray than that.” [Al-Furqaan 25:44]

So crown yourselves with your own bombs, including the Hiroshima bomb and its likes, and crown your leaders with them. Consider all other weapons of mass destruction as your fangs and claws that you use to prey upon wild animals and all of Mankind.

“And those who oppress shall see what kind of outcome overturns them.” [Ash-Shu'ara 26:227]

[End Quote]

Source: <http://www.bakkah.net/articles/defense-muhammad.htm>

Danish Adil

Letter 25

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy..

Modern Day Groups

Hi Mom, I hope you are fine and having a nice day. I believe I would be grossly remiss if I did not mention something about modern day groups that ascribe to Islam, but in reality have little or nothing to do with Islam or the Muslims except the name.

As you already know, at a very young age—15 years old to be exact—I joined the group called the NOI, commonly called the Black Muslims. This was of course in the late sixties. At that time, I thought I was a Muslim. As a result you and Daddy also thought I was a Muslim since none of us really knew what real Islam was, nor who true Muslims were. I remember how much pain I caused you two—especially you, Ma—when I joined that group. I used to see it on your face. I ask Allah, then you to forgive me for that hurt and anguish I caused by joining that cult. Do you forgive me, Mom?

I remember Daddy told me that while he was in the Army serving our country overseas, one of the service men got off the ship there in India and went out looking for a copy of the Qur'an. Other than the NOI, that was probably the extent of our ever hearing anything related to Islam.

NOI (The Nation of Islam)

As for my involvement in the Nation of Islam and adopting their credo, then you should know that their real beliefs are far away from what they espouse, holding only to names—occasionally Arabic—associated with Islam. Let us begin with the most important point of belief: the belief in Allah and who He is. In previous letters I have explained details about the Pillars of Faith: The Belief in Allah, the Angels, the Books, the Messengers, the Day of Judgment, and the Divine Decree. As for the NOI, their understanding of each of these pillars is in opposition to the Qur'an and the Prophetic Tradition.

Let's examine their belief about Allah (God). They have a polytheistic concept, believing that there are many gods. All of them are of the black race. They have statements in their literature like, *"You [the Blackman] are walking around looking for a God to bow to and worship. You are the God!"*

They also believe that these gods are not eternal and that the main god, Master Fard Muhammad (also Wallace Fard Muhammad), was sired by a black man by the name of Alphonso and a white woman named Baby G. This "Supreme god" was born on February 26, 1877. They believe that a belief in a god that cannot be seen is called "Spookism" since an unseen god is a "spook god". Thus, all gods are black and all blacks are gods.

As a result, all white people are devils, manufactured by a big-headed, mad scientist by the name of Yacub. This manufacturing process took 600 years to produce the white man on an island called Pelan. In the Bible it's called Patmos in the Aegean Sea, where they had been "made" of selective breeding called "grafting." Under the command of this black

scientist the 59,999 blacks who came with Yacub to the island were placed under a system of mating that was based on skin color, in which only lighter-complexioned babies were allowed to survive. Over the course of many generations the population of Patmos began to grow lighter and lighter until, after 600 years, the people became very pale with blue eyes and blonde hair. From this island-based tribe of white-skinned albinos came a behaviorally aggressive race of rulers—namely, the Caucasians—who then spread into every corner of the world and who now represent 9 percent of the world population (I in every 11 human beings).

Mom, it still astounds me that I not only used to believe this, but also argued with my biology teacher concerning this amazingly insane belief. I ask Allah to forgive me for teaching this and directing so many other innocent people towards this heretical belief.

Regarding the NOI's beliefs in angels, then it is very similar to their belief in God: they are all black. As for their belief in the Divine Books, and more specifically the Qur'an, then they believe that it has to be revised every 25,000 years. They do not believe in Heaven and Hell after death. Rather Heaven is the complete subjugation of the white race over the black man, therefore the black man's "Hell" is on Earth as long as he doesn't have total independence from the Caucasian people.

As for their belief in the Prophets and Messengers, they claim to believe and accept all of them. However, a closer look shows that they don't. They believe that Elijah Muhammad, born Elijah Poole, is the Messenger of Allah to the black men and women of America. All of this and more places this group outside the realm of Islam. They are not considered Muslims!

The Shi'ites

For years now, we have heard in the news much about the Shi'ites. Many people have been misled into thinking that the difference between the Sunnis and the Shi'ites is only political. Nothing can be further from the truth. Allow me to cite some major problems from this miscreant group that ascribes to Islam.

The Shi'ite Belief Regarding Allah is that they assign to some of their scholars attributes and characteristics that only befit Allah. They insult and belittle Him, committing the most heinous of sins, polytheism.

The Shi'ites' Creed regarding the Glorious Qur'an: they claim that the Qur'an that is with the "Sunnis" is not that which was revealed to Muhammad! They say that there are more than 14,000 verses expunged from our present day copy of the Qur'an! They claim it has been altered, changed, and added to. To this they do not have a shred of proof or evidence.

Even their explanation of the meanings of the Qur'an is erroneous, as they explain it in accordance to their whims and heretical thoughts. They also believe that angels are fallible and therefore can make mistakes. They pray three times a day, not five and their prayer is not like our prayer which has been reported from the Prophet Muhammad. The Shi'ites who hold these beliefs are not considered Muslim.

Damir Adib

Letter 26

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy..

ISIS, Boko Haram and Whoever Else!

You should know—my beloved mother—that the acts of such extremists like Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram (originally from Nigeria), Shabab, Al-Ittihad (originally from Somalia), and now ISIS, that I totally disavow them and their actions. I have nothing to do with them. I do not believe in their doctrines and ideologies. I am free of the Jihadist type thinking and opinions and I condemn them with the strongest condemnation, whether they were committed in the distant past, today, or in the distant future!

For the record, Mom, I also condemn the recent senseless killing of the Jordanian pilot, Moath Al-Kasasbeh, of whom the extremist, murderous, terrorist, ISIS burned alive while confined in a cage. For this is condemned by Allah and his Prophet, the Prophet of Mercy, Muhammad.

Allow me to cite some of the Prophet Muhammad's statements concerning killing, specifically by fire. He said: "And it is none but Allah who punishes with fire (i.e., in the Hell-Fire)."

In another narration, the Prophet's Companions said, "(The Prophet) saw an ant-hill that we had burnt." He asked: "**Who has burnt this?**" We replied: "We [did]." He said: "**It is not proper to punish with fire except the Lord of the Fire.**" So if it is impermissible to kill ants by fire, then how much more the killing of innocent people?! The Messenger of Allah said: "**Do not chain people, do not be treacherous and do not mutilate.**" Further he said: "**The most self-restrained people whilst killing are the People of Faith.**" This is not Islam. This is not the religion of Prophet Muhammad. And this is not the religion of your first born son, Dawud Adib, born David C. White Jr., the first born son of David C. White Sr.!

Dawud Adib

Letter 27

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Justice, Not Equality

Allow me to explain a misnomer that is very popular not only among non-Muslims but unaware, uneducated Muslims as well: the term “equality” among men and women or the lack thereof.

You hear this all the time on the part of non-Muslims, *“Islam does not show gender equality, Islam treats women unfairly or unjustly. There is no real equality in Islam.”* We hear many uneducated Muslims saying, *“Islam is the religion of equality”*. Rather, what should be said is that, **“Islam is the religion of justice.”**

The contemporary Muslim scholar Muhammad Al-'Uthaymin said:

“Here we should note that there are some people who speak of equality instead of justice, and this is a mistake. We should not say equality, because equality implies no differentiation between the two. Because of this unjust call for equality, they started to ask, ‘what is the difference between male and female?’ So they made males and females the same, and then the communists said, ‘What difference is there between ruler and subject? No one has any authority over anyone else, not even fathers and sons; the father has no authority over his son,’ and so on. But if we say *justice*, which means giving each one that to which he or

she is entitled, this misunderstanding no longer applies, and the word used is correct. Hence it does not say in the Qur'an that Allah enjoins equality, rather it says:

“Verily, Allah enjoins Al-‘Adl (i.e., justice)...”

[An-Nahl 16:90]

“and that when you judge between men, you judge with justice...” [An-Nisa 4:58]

Those who say that Islam is the religion of equality are lying against Islam. Rather Islam is the religion of *justice*, which means treating equally those who are equal and differentiating between those who are different. Someone who is uninformed about Islam would say that it is the religion of equality. But what shows you that this notion is false is the fact that most of what is mentioned in the Qur'an denies equality, as in the following verses:

“Say: ‘Are those who know equal to those who know not?’” [Az-Zumar 39:9]

“Say: ‘Is the blind equal to the one who sees? Or darkness equal to light?’” [Ar-Ra'd 13:16]

“Not equal among you are those who spent and fought before the conquering (of Mecca), with those among you who did so later.” [Al-Hadid 57:10]

“Not equal are those of the believers who sit (at home)—except those who are disabled (by injury or are blind or lame)—and those who strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives.” [An-Nisa 4:95]

Not one single letter in the Qur'an enjoins equality, rather it enjoins justice.” [End Quote]

Based on this, Islam does not regard men and women as equal when doing so would result in injustice to one of them, because inappropriate equality is a severe form of injustice. The Qur'an commands women to wear clothes that are different from those worn by men, because of the differences in the ways each sex is tempted by the other. The temptation posed by men is less than the temptation posed by women, so the clothes that women should wear are different than the clothes that men wear. It makes no sense to tell women to expose the parts of the body that men are allowed to expose, because of the differences in the temptation posed by a woman's body and a man's body—as we shall explain.

Women are like men in some aspects and they differ from them in others. Most of the rulings of Islam apply to men and women equally. In cases where a distinction is made between the sexes, the Muslim regards that as a mercy from Allah and a sign of His knowledge of His creation, but the arrogant disbeliever sees it as oppression and injustice, so he stubbornly insists on claiming that men and women are the same. So let him tell us how a man can carry a fetus and breastfeed it? He stubbornly ignores the weakness of women and how they bleed during their monthly period, and he stubbornly beats his head against the rock of reality. While, the Muslim is still at peace with his faith, surrendering to the command of Allah.

“Should not He Who has created know? And He is the Most Kind and Courteous (to His slaves), All-Aware (of everything)” [Al-Mulk 67:14]

Danish Achib

Letter 28

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Something to Think About

So I would like for you and any Christian that is a relative, a friend, a congregant of your church, neighbor or the like to think deeply upon the following. The Jews malign your Prophet Jesus with the unthinkable, despicable claim that he was a child of the bed (illegitimate child) and that his mother was a lewd, licentious woman. They claim that they killed and crucified him. While the strongest, fiercest defender of the honor and nobility of Jesus and his mother, Mary, is Muhammad via his speech, prophetic narrations, and the book with which he came, the Noble, Glorious Qur'an.

So, Mom, the question is, how can you as Christians love the Jews while they are the enemies of your Prophet and his noble mother, Mary? And to add insult to injury, many, many Christians—while I do not think you are one of them—criticize, disparage, and vilify Muhammad, as Pope Benedict XVI did when he said: *“Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.”*

How can Christians disparage Muhammad when he gallantly, courageously, showing the utmost love and respect for Jesus defended him and his mother, Mary?! Christians believe that the Jews killed and crucified their beloved Christ

Jesus while Muslims believe the antithesis of that. Allah says in the Noble Qur'an "**they did not kill him nor did they crucify him...**" [An-Nisa 4:157]

On the contrary, what is customary from the Christians is that they sanctify the cross which they claim Jesus was crucified upon. So why would a thinking, intelligent, Christian make sacred an instrument of criminality which upon it they assert their Prophet was crucified? Especially since, as one professor Michael Peppard of Fordham University said, "The Cross is an instrument of capital punishment. And it's quite amazing. It's one of the big stories of early Christianity, that the instrument of the execution and torture of Jesus Christ over time becomes the primary symbol of Jesus Christ."

And as I have already mentioned to you in another letter regarding someone resembling the beloved Christ Jesus being substituted for the crucifixion in his place, the main concern about the cross is about the person who was hung there, since the wood in the end is just the instrument of torture. Therefore, if the personality wasn't Jesus in the first place, then where lies the 'sanctity' of the symbol?! It just does not make sense to any rational, thinking person! Indeed my dear mother, this demonstrates the naivety and lack of wisdom of the one who accepts this type of thinking. Stranger than this is that Prophet Muhammad not only has statements disclaiming the crucifixion of Jesus but he also rejected and calumniated the cross with the strongest of vituperation!

Whenever he found images of crosses, he would never leave them except that he would erase them or cut them out. If he found one on a piece of clothing or curtain or the like he would immediately change that evil with his hand by blotting it out or defacing it. At least two things were remedied when

he did this: he would be ridding the society of something that was used as an object of worship and devotion which should be only directed to Allah (God) Alone. Secondly, he was absolving Jesus of this accusation of being tortured upon it.

Last but not least, it is customary and very common among wise, intelligent, rationally thinking individuals that anyone who sanctifies something will honor that thing. The Christians consecrate and deem the cross holy. However, in their 'honoring' it they desacralize it by publishing, producing, spreading and printing it on any and every conceivable place possible. They will even insert it on the lowest and filthiest of places like bathrooms, bed sheets, or areas which are soiled by human defilement. They will publish and print these crosses on shoes or even places lower than that. You will find them on the fronts and back parts of pants and jeans, areas which are directly over the human genitalia! Once again my dear thinking mother—you who raised me to be a thinking person—this is the height of disrespect and dishonor of anything considered sacred and beyond any reasoning whatsoever—may Allah guide us all!

Lastly I would like to give some examples of books that should be noted for their *incorrect* accounts, forged and fabricated narrations and unfounded historical events of the life of or in defense of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam:

- Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources (1983), Islamic Texts Society by Martin Lings.
- Life of Muhammad by Alfred Guillaume which is an abridgment by the historian Ibn Ishaq.

These works are of the *least* reliable for the history of the Prophet Muhammad.

- Any history book or military chronicles of the life of Muhammad or his disciples written by a man named Al-Waqidi, one of the teachers of Ibn Ishaq mentioned above.
- Uyum Al-Athar, by Ibn Sayyid An-Nas whose main source was Ibn Ishaq.

Those works that are *more reliable* are:

- Fiqh As-Sirah by Muhammad Al-Ghazali with the corrections from Muhammad Nasiruddin al-Albani.
- The Sealed Nectar by Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri.
- The Noble Revered Prophet of Islam; Muhammad: Between the Kharijite Terrorist Savages and the Existentialist Nihilist Haters (2015), Salafi Publications by Amjad Rafiq

Danish Ashiq

Letter 29

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

The King of Abyssinia

Mom, I was reading an article in the news today about Ethiopia's indigenous grain called *teff* and how it is garnering global interest as a new super food. You know how much my wife and I love organic eating and holistic living. And since it mentioned about a new economic development taking place in this ancient country of Ethiopia, I couldn't resist but write you another missive concerning another important topic in my religion.

In the early days of Islam—over 1400 years ago—many of the early Muslims were being severely oppressed in Mecca. They did not respond by picking up weapons, nor did they retaliate with bloodshed and carnage. Rather, many of them went to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) seeking protection and sanctuary. At that time Abyssinia was ruled by a just Christian ruler named Najashi; he did not allow anyone to be oppressed in his land.

When the Muslims left Mecca, fleeing with their religion, some of the pagan Arabs made an attempt to convince this king not to provide refuge for the Muslims, claiming that they were nothing more than foolish youth who

had invented a religion and abandoned their people. These pagans presented their case to the king saying:

“O King, there has come to your land young fools. They have abandoned their people, not entering into your religion (of Christianity); and they have come with an entirely new religion. Neither you nor we are aware of this religion..” So Najashi, the Abyssinian ruler, asked “What is this religion with which you have broken away from your people, not entering my nor anyone else’s religion?!” So the one who responded (from amongst the Muslims) was Ja’far, the Prophet Muhammad’s paternal cousin. He said, “O King, we were a people who used to worship statues during the pre-Islamic days of ignorance. We ate carcasses and committed all types of evil acts. We used to sever the ties of kinship and would harm our neighbors. The strong from amongst us would oppress the weak. We were upon this state of affairs until Allah sent to us a Messenger from amongst ourselves, one who’s lineage, truthfulness, honesty, and chastity is well known to us. So he called us to Allah (God), in order that we may worship (Allah) Alone, worshipping Him and ridding ourselves of worshipping what we and our forefathers used to worship, such as stones, statues, etc.’

He (Prophet Muhammad) commanded us to speak the truth, to fulfill the trust and the rights of kith and kin. (He commanded us to) be dutiful to our neighbors, to stay away from all impermissible matters, to never shed the blood of an innocent soul. He forbade us from all evil sexual deeds, false testimony, taking the wealth of the orphans, and slandering the chaste women. He

commanded us to worship Allah Alone, not associating partners with Him at all..."

After clarifying a number of details about Islam, Ja'far eventually recited the beginning of the 19th Chapter of the Qur'an (*Mary*) which includes details about Prophets Zechariah, John, Jesus, and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Upon hearing these verses Najashi cried until his beard was dampened. He said, "Indeed this (religion) and that which Moses brought comes from a single lantern..." Concerning this, the Qur'an states:

"And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, 'Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses. And why should we not believe in Allah and what has come to us of the truth? And we aspire that our Lord will admit us [to Paradise] with the righteous people.' So Allah rewarded them for what they said with gardens [in Paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally. And that is the reward of doers of good." [Al-Ma'idah 5:83]

Finally, the Christian ruler wrote this letter:

To: Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah

From: Najashi Ashamah, the Son of Abjar

"May the peace from Allah, His mercy and blessings be showered on you, O Prophet of Allah. There is none worthy of worship but He Who has guided me to Islam.'

O Messenger of Allah, your letter concerning Jesus has reached me. I swear by the Lord of the heavens and the

earth that Jesus (peace be upon him) himself never said more than what you have mentioned. We understand the letter you have sent to us and we have entertained your cousin and his companions.'

I testify that you are the true and accepted Messenger of Allah. I have pledged my allegiance to you at the hands of your cousin by whose hand I have accepted Islam for the pleasure of Allah, the Lord of the Universe. I am sending to you (my son) Areeha the son of Ashamah the son of Abjar. I have control over none but my own self. O Messenger of Allah, if you wish that I come to you personally, I am prepared to do so, for I testify that whatever you say is the absolute truth."

One of the many benefits of this story is that it is an indication that Islam has extinguished all types of racism and prejudice. The Prophet Muhammad said to a multitude of his followers in his Last Sermon delivered on the Plains of Arafat:

"O People, Remember that your Lord is One. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; also a black has no superiority over a white, nor a white any superiority over a black, except by piety and good action. Indeed the best among you is the one with piety coupled with the best character. Listen! Did I convey this to you properly?" People responded, **"Yes. O Messenger of God."** The Prophet then said, **"Therefore, each one of you who is here must convey this to everyone not present."**

He abhorred boasting over one's ancestry, lineage, and origin of race or ethnicity, so much so he likened them to an animal that lives, hibernates, and gives birth to its young ones in the feces of other animals (i.e., the dung beetle)! He said:

“People should stop boasting about their forefathers who have died, for they are no more than the fuel of Hell, or they will be more insignificant before Allah than the dung beetle which rolls up dung with its nose. Allah has taken away your pre-Islamic arrogance and pride in your ancestors; rather man is either a believer who fears Allah or an immoral person who is doomed. All of them are the sons of Adam and Adam was created from dust.”

Much of this was connected to the environment before the advent of Islam, Arabs used to look down upon others, especially blacks. The Prophet repeatedly compared the believing Africans to the non-believing Arab nobles indicating the former were superior even if those Arabs were his closest family members. He said:

“You should hear and obey your ruler even if he was an Ethiopian slave whose head looked like a raisin.”

I'm not absolutely sure of the famed man who said it mommy—and you are the history buff in the household—but one noted non-Muslim historian said that,

“The extinction of race consciousness as between Muslims is one of the outstanding achievements of Islam, and in the contemporary world there is, as it happens, a crying need for the propagation of this Islamic virtue.”

I believe he was from Great Britain and not the US, but whoever that non-Muslim historian was indeed he has spoken a word of truth and reality.

And speaking of Great Britain, did you know that there is a difference between the UK, Great Britain, and England? For all of these years I always thought they were synonymous, but guess what? I just found out the other day they are not! Amazing?! Just like these things about Islam I'm sharing with you and the family... You learn something new every day!

Your son,

Dannal Ashib

Letter 30

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

A Mercy to Mankind

In light of the many cruel, vile, unjust, unsubstantiated and untrue things that have been said about Prophet Muhammad—especially due to the clamor in the news about An-Nusrah, Al-Qaeda, Muslim Brotherhood, Taliban, ISIS/ISIL, and the like—I would like to take this time and share a synopsis of his life, a life all Muslims try to emulate every day and night of their lives.

You should not think, Mom, that what I'm about to mention is just a made up beautiful story or an embellishment that is not factual. Rather, every single point I'm about to mention is supported by authentic narratives and sound sources, recorded mostly by Muslim scholars and some non-Muslim historians as well.

His character in short was as follows: He used to milk his own animals, mend his own sandals, and repair his own clothes. When he was not at the mosque or tending to the general needs of the community, he would help his family in the home and cut meat for them. He was the most modest of people and would not look anyone straight in the eye. He would reply to the invitations of the slave and the free alike. He accepted gifts even if it was a cup of milk, and he would reward a person for it. He did not eat food that had been given in charity, and he

would give charity to slave women and the poor when they asked him for something. He only got angry for the sake of his Lord, and he did not get angry for his own sake. He would adhere to the truth even if that resulted in harm for himself or his Companions.

On one occasion, he found one of the best of his Companions slain in an area where Jews lived. He did not treat them harshly nor did he go beyond that which was prescribed by the Noble Qur'an.

The Prophet Muhammad experienced severe hunger. He would tie a rock to his stomach to ward off the pangs of hunger. He did not refuse lawful food unless it was not of his people's common food and he would not eat standing, leaning, reclining nor at a table. Instead he always ate while sitting on the floor. He never ate his fill of bread for three days in a row until he died, as he would prefer to give away what he had rather than eat his fill, not because of poverty or miserliness.

He was the most forbearing of people, the most courageous of people, the most just of people, and the most morally pure of all human beings. His hand never touched the hand of any woman unless he was married to her or related by blood or milk. Remember what I said in one of the letters about the breastfeeding, Mom? He loved perfume and hated foul smells. He would sit with the poor, offer them food, and eat with them. He honored the virtuous and softened the hearts of the nobles by treating them kindly. He upheld ties of kinship without favoring his relatives over those who were better than them. He did not treat anyone harshly, not even those who treated him harshly. He accepted the excuses of those who apologized to him. He would joke, but he never lied. The Prophet has warned us:

“Woe to the one who speaks and lies in order to make people laugh; woe to him, woe to him.”

He would smile without laughing out loud, never screaming, shouting or stomping his feet on the ground or laughing uncontrollably. If he saw permissible play he did not denounce it. He would even challenge his wife to a foot race. When voices were raised against him, he bore that with patience. He had servants, male and female, but he did not eat or dress any better than they did. He did not waste time without striving for the sake of Allah or doing that which was essential to better himself. He did not look down on any poor person because of his poverty or chronic sickness, and he did not fear any king because of his power. He called both of them to worship Allah, the One, True God without any partners, on equal terms.

He was the most generous of people, who never kept a coin with him overnight. If he had anything left over and he could not find someone to give it to in charity before night came, he would not go home until he had donated it to someone who needed it. He did not take anything from that which Allah had bestowed upon him except one year's supply of the simplest provisions, dates and barley, giving all of that for the sake of Allah. He was never asked for anything but he gave it, then he would go back to his annual supplies and donate from them to those who needed it more, occasionally running out before the year ended.

He would accept invitations to meals, visit the sick even if they were Jews or Christians, and attend funerals. He walked alone among his enemies without a guard. He was the most humble and quiet of people without being haughty, the most eloquent without being long-winded, the most cheerful

of face, one that when he was happy his face shone like a full moon. He did not worry about worldly matters. He wore whatever he found, and let his servants or others ride behind him on the same riding beast. He rode whatever was available, sometimes a horse, sometimes a camel, sometimes a mule and sometimes a donkey. Sometimes he walked barefoot, with no cloak, turban or cap, visiting the sick in the furthest parts of the city where his life ended and is buried.

This man who was prophesized to appear after Jesus never reviled any of his believing followers except that he supplicated to Allah that that revilement might become expiation and a mercy for them. He said: **"I have been sent as a blessing, not a curse."** If he was asked to supplicate against anyone, whether Muslim, Jew, Christian or pagan, he would refrain from praying *against* him and pray *for* him instead.

His hand never, ever struck anyone except if he were engaged in battle, and even then he did not strike the person's face. Also, if he was given the choice between two things he would choose the easier option, unless it involved evil or the severing of family ties. He was described in the Torah (commonly called the Old Testament) before Allah commissioned him, and said:

Muhammad the Messenger of Allah, My chosen slave; he is not harsh or rough, and does not make clamor in the marketplace. He did not follow up an evil with an evil; rather he would pardon and forgive. Part of his nature was that he would be the first to greet whomever he met, and if someone came to him with a need, he would be patient until the person was the first one to leave. If someone took him by the hand, he would not let go until the other person let go first. In a gathering he could not be distinguished from his Companions.

Allah, the Most Gentle, the Most Subtle said:

“And by the Mercy of Allah, you dealt with them gently. And had you been severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from you.”

[The Family of Imran 3:159]

Allah conferred upon him the best approach and demeanor, and the best way of dealing with people no matter who they may have been and no matter how difficult the situation was. He was born but never afforded the chance to see his father or his mother. He grew up poor in an ignorant desert land amongst some of the crudest of people known to man, tending sheep.

In spite of all this and more Allah endowed him with all good characteristics and good ways, and informed him via Divine Revelation the stories of earlier and later generations. Some of those nations we are familiar with and others we are not. Allah apprised him of everything which brings a person success and salvation in the Hereafter and happiness in this world. Allah taught him everything that would bring a person closer to Him and far away from the Hell-Fire. The Messenger taught his Ummah (Muslim nation) to focus on one's duties and keep away from non-beneficial affairs and non-essentials. He was an orphan, yet a father, a husband yet never abusive, a statesman yet not a politician, a man who could not read or write yet sent letters to many of the major kings, emperors, and rulers of his time.

This was the man that every human being should strive to know about. This is the man who was “supremely

successful” in his mission. This comment, Mom, I have borrowed from the book of a non-Muslim entitled *The 100: A Ranking of The Most Influential Persons in History*

Dannal Asif

Letter 31

In the Name of Allah, The Possessor of Vast
Mercy, The Granter of Immense Mercy...

Allah's Promise

Last but not least, since I will never, ever cease imploring Allah for your guidance and salvation and encouraging you to return to the purpose of your creation which is to single out Allah (the One True and Magnificent God) in worship. Not ascribing any partners with Him and accepting Muhammad—the one from the Arabian Peninsula—as His Final Messenger and Prophet sent to mankind.

My strongest desire for you is to be guided and obtain eternal salvation in the Next Life. Nothing prevents you from being guided to this religion except the testimony of faith “I bear witness that there is no deity or god worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Final Messenger”.

You should keep in mind, that the Day of Resurrection will inevitably come, in which every human being will undoubtedly say “I am afraid for myself, I am afraid for myself.” That will be a tremendous day, a man will run away from his own brother, mother and father, and each of them will have enough concerns of his own to make him

indifferent to others as I have mentioned in some of my letters to you. My earnest plea to you, as you approach 85 years of age is to hasten to save yourself. Do not let anyone come between you and true guidance.

Islam presents a guarantee to every sincere Muslim who obeys Allah and remains in this state of dedicated devotion until he dies, that he will definitely enter Paradise and remain there forever. Allah says in the Qur'an:

“But those who believe and do righteous deeds, We shall admit them to the Gardens under which rivers flow (i.e., in Paradise), to dwell therein forever. Allah’s promise is the truth, and whose words can be truer than those of Allah? (Of course, none).” [An-Nisa 4:122]

Islam also guarantees the disbeliever who ignores the commands of Allah that he will definitely enter Hell. Allah says:

“Allah has promised the hypocrites, men and women, and the disbelievers, the Fire of Hell, therein shall they abide. It will suffice them. Allah has cursed them and for them is the lasting torment.” [At-Tawbah 9:68]

“But those who disbelieve, for them will be the Fire of Hell. Neither will it have a complete killing effect on them so that they die, nor shall its torment be lightened for them. Thus do We requite every disbeliever!”

[Al-Fatir 35:36]

Allah will say to the disbelievers on the Day of Judgment, those who did not single Him out in worship but rather worshipped other than Him or worshipped someone or something along with Him:

“This is Hell which you were promised! Burn therein this Day, for that you used to disbelieve!”

[Ya-Sin 36:63-64]

We as Muslims fully believe that Allah will not go back on His promise to either the believers or the disbelievers. He describes how both believers and disbelievers will be at the end of the Day of Requital when He said:

“And the dwellers of Paradise will call out to the dwellers of the Fire (saying): ‘We have indeed found true what our Lord had promised us; have you also found true, what your Lord promised (warnings, etc.)?’ They shall say, ‘Yes.’ Then a crier will proclaim between them: ‘The Curse of Allah is on the (polytheists and wrongdoers, etc.).’” [Al-A'raf 7:44]

Everyone who believes and does righteous deeds, and dies in this state, will definitely enter Paradise. This belief is not merely believing in One God; rather, it is to single Him out in all forms of worship without associating any partners with Him. Everyone who disbelieves without worshipping Allah Alone with no partners or associates and does evil deeds, and dies in this state, will definitely enter Hell.

You as a Christian and a parent of a now Muslim child have done much good for me, my siblings and others outside of our family. I have witnessed this with my own eyes on numerous occasions. If you were to embrace Islam, single out Allah in worship, ascribing no partners with Him, rejecting that false statement and belief that He has a son or a mother, or a cohort of any degree whatsoever, Allah has promised to you, my beloved Christian mother a double reward. He says:

“O you who have believed, fear Allah and believe in His Messenger; He will [then] give you a double portion of

His mercy and make for you a light by which you will walk and forgive you; and Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.” [Al-Hadid 57:28]

Listen closely my dear mother; please listen closely and attentively to the double reward. This is awarded to any Jew or Christian who believed firmly in Moses or Jesus then embraces Islam and believes in that prophet of whom both of those mighty messengers of Allah (God) foretold would appear in the Arabian Desert, Muhammad, the son of Abdullah. That reward is that everything those Jews or Christians may have done of good while upon the firm faith in their respective prophets, Allah will bring back those good deeds and attach it to their slate after their entrance into Islam! However, these same acts of kindness, charity, goodness and benevolence will be bankrupted and they—Jews or Christians—will not be given the slightest of recompense since their deeds will be eclipsed by the greatest of all evils they have committed which is ascribing partners, rivals, associates, intercessors, equals or deities in worship with the One, True God deserving to be worshipped alone... Allah!

Allah commanded His last Prophet and Messenger to mankind to say to the people:

“Shall we [believers] inform you of the greatest losers as to [their good] deeds? [They are] those whose effort is lost in the worldly life, while they think that they are doing well in deed.” Those are the ones who disbelieve in the verses of their Lord and in [their] meeting Him, so their deeds have become worthless; and We will not assign to them on the Day of Resurrection any importance. That is their recompense—Hell—for

what they denied and [because] they took My signs and My messengers in ridicule.” [Al-Kahf 18:103-107]

One day, one of the closest Companions—of whom I have mentioned in one of my other letters to you—Umar bin Al-Khattab witnessed a Christian monk exiting a monastery. His face had the signs of extreme religious dedication and devotion, prayer and fasting. His clothing was tattered and disheveled. As a result of this sight, this great Muslim ruler began to cry. His followers asked him “What makes you weep, O Commander of the Faithful?” He then replied by reciting these passages from the Noble Qur’an:

“Working [hard] and exhausted. They will [enter to] burn in an intensely hot Fire. They will be given drink from a boiling spring.” [Al-Ghashiyah 88:3-5]

One of the great guiding principles of Islam is that the believer should tread a path between fear and hope. He should not take it for granted that he will enter Paradise, because this will make him complacent, and he does not know in what state he will die. Nor should he assume that he is going to Hell, because this is despairing of the mercy of Allah, which is forbidden. So the believer does righteous deeds, and hopes that Allah will reward him for them, and he avoids evil deeds out of fear of the punishment of Allah. If he commits a sin, he repents in order to gain forgiveness and protect himself from the punishment of Hell. Allah forgives all sins and accepts the repentance of those who repent. If a believer fears that the good deeds he has sent on before him are not enough, as you suggest, then he will increase his efforts, in fear and hope. No matter how many righteous deeds he has sent on before him, he cannot rely on them and take them for granted, or else he will be doomed. He keeps striving and hoping for reward, and

at the same time he fears lest his deeds be contaminated with any element of showing off, self-admiration, or anything that will lead to them being rejected by Allah. Allah describes the believers:

“...those who give that (their charity) which they give (and also do other good deeds) with their hearts full of fear (whether their alms and charity, etc.) have been accepted or not), because they are sure to return to their Lord (for reckoning).” [Al-Mu'minun 23:60]

The Islamic belief concerning human sin is: the individual bears the responsibility for his own sin; no one else should bear this burden for him, nor should he bear the burden for anyone else. Allah says:

“And no bearer of burdens shall bear another's burden...” [Al-Fatir 35:18]

This refutes the idea of original sin. If the father commits a sin, what fault is that of his children and grandchildren? Why should they bear the burden of a sin that someone else committed? The Christian belief that the descendants should bear the sin of their father is the essence of injustice. You always taught me to use my brain, that piece of flesh Allah granted me with to think, reflect and determine what is rational from that which is irrational. I remember you always saying to me when I would do something dumb or stupid “Davey, use your head for more than a hat rack!” So now I now respectfully ask you, Mom, how can any sane person say that the sin committed by one individual, Adam, could or should be carried down the eons by all of mankind or that the children, grandchildren and subsequent descendants should be ruined and subjected to eternal damnation because

of the sin of their father, the first human being and prophet on Earth, Adam?!

We as Muslims believe that this contradicts the truth in the Bible, the Noble, Majestic Qur'an as well as intelligent logic itself. As for the Bible, then it states:

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."

[Matthew 16:27]

And as cross references we also find:

"The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them."

[Ezekiel 18:20]

God "will repay each person according to what they have done." [Romans 2:6]

"Because they have despised the LORD's word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them." [Numbers 15:31]

"Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin." [Deuteronomy 24:16]

"Judge between your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing down on their heads what they have done, and vindicating the innocent by treating them in accordance with their innocence." [1 Kings 8:32]

“Yet he did not put the children of the assassins to death, in accordance with what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses where the LORD commanded: ‘Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin.’” [2 Kings 14:6]

From intelligent logic, I say to you, Mom, that it is well known that is the statement “The wages of sin is death” is not the words of God or even a prophet of God. And I mentioned in an earlier letter to you and Mommy that the Bible can be summoned up into three aspects relative to the “speaker”:

- Firstly, the words of God.
- Secondly, those of a prophet.
- Thirdly, those of a historian.

As for “The wages of sin is death” then it is the statement of a historian: Paul. He is the one who made the cross the center of this belief. It is for that reason he said that if Christ is not resurrected then you are still in your sins. So according to Paul, God had to come and die for the sins of mankind. But I say in due and demanded respect to you my dear mother, this does not make sense.

If Allah (God) desires to forgive us, then He can simply do so, as your book mentions about the story of the Prodigal Son. Where the son returns to the father after being away from him a long time and the father accepts him willingly and lovingly! So if there is death for a sin committed then there is no forgiveness. So if God is truly kind, beneficent, compassionate and forgiving, then will He just forgive his servants for what they have committed. As for His son, then if he really loves him and is kind then why is He

sacrificing him? As you already know, since you are his grandparents, I have been blessed by Allah (God) with only one son. I love him tremendously.

Thus, if the son—in this case, Jesus—truly loves the people and wants to die for them, then why does he have to offer himself as a sacrifice? And since God loved him more than anything, why does He give up his “only begotten”?! If there was a train coming your grandson’s way (who coincidentally is your only begotten grandson and my only begotten son), **would I shove him in front of it?** Absolutely not! Rather, I would do everything in my power to save him from that impending doom, since he is my most beloved and only begotten!

And again, if He, God, loved him so much, why didn’t He offer Himself instead of the son?! For if I want to save someone, I offer myself and not my only sired son! And to compound the issue, the Christians say that He in fact did offer Himself. This only makes things worse, Mom, because if it was God that died on the Cross, then as I have mentioned in previous letters to you—who was running the Universe in His absence?!

In short, my beloved mother—may Allah guide you and improve your condition—I appeal to you to investigate Islam. Please read that English translation of Glorious Qur’an I gave you at the small, but fruitful family reunion we had at my home. Ponder upon its meanings. Read the biography of the Prophet of Mercy, Prophet Muhammad. Look objectively at his comportment with his Companions, with his neighbors—Jews, Christians and pagans—read how he dealt with his wife, his children and even his enemies while at war with the Muslims. Ask Allah (God) for guidance, admission

into Paradise and to protect you from the torment of the Hell-Fire.

May Allah guide us all to what is correct and better.

*Humbly and respectfully submitted from your first born son,
Dawud Adib, the son of David C. White Sr.*

Dawud Adib

Suggested Reading:

The Noble Qur'an translation by Dr. Muhsin Khan and Dr. Muhammad Taqi Ad-Din Al-Hilalee

The Status of Jesus in Islam by Dr. Rabee Al-Madkhalee

Proofs From The Christian Gospel That Jesus Is From The Servants of Allah by Dr. Muhammad Taqi Ad-Din Al-Hilalee

The Decisive Word Regarding the Ascension of Jesus by Dr. Muhammad Khalil Harras

Descent of Jesus Christ by Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan

The Wahhabi Myth (Dispelling Prevalent Fallacies and the Fictitious Link with Bin Ladin) by Haneef Oliver

Sacred Freedom—Western Liberalist Ideologies in the Light of Islam by Haneef Oliver

The Noble Revered Prophet of Islam; Muhammad Between The Kharijite Terrorist Savages and the Existentialist Nihilist Haters by Ahmjad Rafiq

The Sealed Nectar (Biography of Prophet Muhammad) by Safi Ar-Rahman Al-Mabarakfuri

In Defense of Islam by Abul Hasan Maalik Al-Akhdar

The Easiest Explanation of Beneficial Speech in Establishing the Evidences of At-Tawhid by Abu Abdillah Al-Masna'i

The Correct Creed that Every Muslim Must Believe by Dr. Abdus-Salaam Burjis

Concise Manual for the New Muslim by Abdul-Aziz Bur'ee

Fundamental Beliefs of a Muslim by Salih Al-Fawzan

Religious Fundamentals that Every Muslim Should Believe by Muhammad Sulayman At-Tamimi

The Meaning of Laa ilahaa illa Allah by Muhammad Al-Wasaabee

The Meaning of Laa ilahaa illa Allah by Dr. Muhammad Raslan

Conditions of La ilaaha illa Allah by Ubayd Al-Jabiri

The Pillars of Islam and Iman by Muhammad Jamil Zeno
What a Muslim Should Believe by Muhammad Jamil Zeno
Islamic Creed based on the Qur'an and Sunnah by Muhammad
Jamil Zeno
What Must be Known about Islam by Muhammad Jamil Zeno
Essential Lessons for Every Muslim by Abdul-Aziz bin Baz
Searching for Happiness (An invitation to Non-Muslims) by Salih
As-Sindee
A Glimpse At The Impeccable Character Of The Noble Messenger
by Abdul Muhsin Al-Abbaad

Recommended Audio:

What was the Religion of Christ Jesus? Pt.I & 2 by Dawud Adib

Why You Should Become Muslim! by Dawud Adib

Who is Your Creator? by Dawud Adib

Tawheed: Mankind's Greatest Need Conference: Masjid

As-Sunnah, Aston, Birmingham Nov. 2014 by Abu Hakeem Bilal Davis

You Do Not Guide Whom You Love Rather Allah Guides, by Shaykh Ubayd Al-Jaabiree

Islam's Position on Crime in our Society by Abul-Hasan Maalik Al-Akhdar

Associating the Deen of Allah with the Crime of Terrorism by Abul-Hasan Maalik Al-Akhdar

Understanding The Terrorist Insurgency in Light of ISIS and the Paris Attacks by Abu Khadeejah

In Defense Of The Prophet—A Response to the Danish Cartoons 2006 by Abu Khadeejah

The Khawaarij Renegades and Suicide Bombers by Abu Khadeejah

The Cancer of Terrorism in Our Times by Abu Khadeejah

Beneficial Websites:

<http://salaf-us-saalih.com/blogs/invitation-to-islam/>

<http://salaf-us-saalih.com/blogs/new-to-islam/>

<http://www.salafipublications.com/sps/>

<http://www.islaam.ca/> (2 a's)

www.prophetmuhammad.name

www.troid.ca