

Opinion feature

The truth is that Muslims do cherish Jesus

by Yahia Fadlalla

All Praise is due to God, the Lord of the universe. May His Peace and Blessing be upon all His prophets including Moses, Jesus, and Muhammed.

During the Christmas break I had a telephone conversation with a Muslim (note the spelling) friend of mine who lives in Toronto, Ontario. He was telling me that some Muslims where he lives were called *Satanic* and *Anti-Christ*. The reasoning of the *accuser/s* is that: Muslims do not believe in Jesus. Here in Fredericton area, another friend of mine was called a *Demon*, simply because he said "I am a Muslim".

To my dear Christian friends on and off campus and to all other readers, this humble attempt is intended to shed *some* light of truth upon what's said and *conjectured* about Muslims mischievously and without any prior knowledge or background about Islam.

Islam is the *only non-Christian faith* which makes it an article of faith for its followers to believe in Jesus. No Muslim is a Muslim if he/she does not believe in Jesus. Muslims believe that Jesus is one of the messengers of Allah (The Only God of the worlds). They believe in his miraculous (virgin) Birth. They believe that he was the Messiah. They believe that he gave life to the dead by God's permission. They believe that he healed those born blind and the lepers by God's permission (reference: The Qura'n, the Holly Book of Islam, revealed over 1400 years ago; 5:75, 5:110, 19:49).

Every time the Muslim mentions the name of Jesus without saying "Peace be upon him" he would be considered disrespectful. The Qura'n mentions Jesus (pbuh) = Peace be upon him) by name five times (5x) more than the number of times the prophet of Islam

(Muhammed, pbuh) is mentioned (for example, see The Qura'n 2:87, 3:45, 4:171, 5:49, 6:85); to be exact - twenty five times as against five. Though Jesus (pbuh) is mentioned

by name in twenty five places in the Qura'n, he is also addressed with respect as: "**Ibn Maryam**" (in Arabic, the Language of The Qura'n) which means Son of Mary; as **Masih** - (Messiah in Hebrew) - translated as Christ; "**Abd-Ullah**" - Servant of Allah; "**Rasul-ullah**" - Messenger of Allah. Moreover, there is a chapter in The Qura'n named **Maryam** (chapter 19) named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus (pbuh). Not one of the 66 books of the Protestants and the 73 of the Roman Catholics is named after Mary. The names **Isah** (Jesus) and **Maryam** are common names among Muslims. A matter of fact, one of my daughters' name is Maryam. These names are given to Muslim children in honour of Jesus (pbuh) and his mother.

The Qura'n mentions the story of Mary and the esteemed position which she occupies in Islam, before the actual annunciation of the Birth of Jesus (pbuh) is given: "Behold, the angels said: O Mary! Allah has chosen you and purified you, chosen you above the women of all nations." (The Qura'n 3:42). The Qura'n goes on to say: "Behold, the angels said: O Mary! Allah gives you glad tidings of a word from Him: his name will be Christ Son of Mary held in honour in this world and the hereafter, and (of the company of) those nearest to God." (The Qura'n 3:45) "nearest to God" not physically nor geographically, but spiritually. Whilst the good news

was being announced, Mary was told that her unborn child would be called Jesus, that he would be the Christ, and that ... "He shall speak to the people in childhood

said: O Mary! Truly an amazing thing have you brought! O sister of Aaron! Your father was not a man of evil nor your mother unchaste! But, she pointed to him (the Babe),

they said: how can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle? (and by a miracle he spoke) He said: "I am indeed a servant of God: He has made me blessed where so ever I be, and He has enjoined on me

prayer and charity as long as I live. (He) has made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable; so Peace be upon me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)! (The Qura'n 19:27-33). Thus, Jesus (pbuh) rescued and defended his mother. This is

the first miracle that The Qura'n attributes to Jesus - That he spoke as an infant. Contrast this with the first miracle in the Bible which occurred when he was over thirty years of age (see John 2:1-10).

Though Muslims respect, love, and cherish Jesus, they take him as a servant and a messenger of God. The Qura'n says: "The similitude of Jesus before Allah (God) is that of Adam; He (God) created him from dust then said to him 'Be': and he was." (The Qura'n 3:59).

I hope that the above facts disclose *some* of the truth about Muslims and Islam, the truth that many do not know. But, we must proclaim the will of our beloved Jesus (pbuh); we must declare the truth whether we like it or not. In his words: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32).

For questions concerning this article and/or further readings on the topic, please contact The Straight Path group at 453-9513.

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and in maturity and he shall be (of the company of) the righteous." (The Qura'n 3:46). All the above prophecies were fulfilled including that he shall speak to the people in childhood; in the chapter Maryam, The Qura'n says: "At length she brought the (Babe) to the people, carrying him. They



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