

“In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. We all know the New World was discovered because Christopher Columbus was looking for a trade route to the East. But *why* was he looking for a trade route? Because during its second great jihad, Islam had invaded Central Asia and defeated Constantinople in 1453, cutting off the overland route for Europeans. Islamic armies continued their jihad northward, and conquered much of what is now Eastern Europe, until they were finally stopped at the gates of Vienna in 1683 (on September 11th). Most Arabs are Muslims, but most Muslims are not Arabs.”<sup>1</sup>

Most Arabs are Muslims, but most Muslims are not Arabs.

“If anyone harms (others), God will harm him, and if anyone shows hostility to others, God will show hostility to him.”<sup>2</sup>

“Those who believe (in the Qur'an), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians...and (all) who believe in God and the last day and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” (The Qur'an, 2:62)

“Jim Jones, David Koresh and Meir Kahane do not typify Christianity and Judaism in the eyes of the civilized West, but those same eyes are prone to see Osama bin Laden and Mullah Muhammad Omar as typifying Islam.”<sup>3</sup>

“The Arabic word ‘Muslim’ literally means ‘someone who is in a state of Islam (submission to the will and law of God)’. The message of Islam is meant for the entire world, and anyone who accepts this message becomes a Muslim. Islam is the second largest religion in the world and will soon be the second largest religion in America. Yet, few people know what Islam is.”<sup>4</sup>

## I. Historically

### A. “Today, Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the world.”<sup>5</sup>

“Worldwide, there are 1.2 billion Muslims. There are 6 million Muslims in the United States and Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the country. Islam is the dominant religion throughout large portions of Asia and Africa, with the largest Muslim populations living in Indonesia (170.3 million), Pakistan (136 million), Bangladesh (106 million), and India (103 million).”<sup>6</sup>

**“The majority of Muslims are Sunni, being 75-90% of all Muslims. The second largest sect, Shia, makes up 10-20%.** The most populous Muslim country is Indonesia home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims followed by Pakistan (11.0%), India (10.9%), and Bangladesh (9.2%). Sizable communities are also found in China, Russia, and parts of Europe. With over 1.57 to 1.65 billion followers or over 22 to 24% of earth's population, Islam is the second-largest and one of the fastest-growing religions in the world.”<sup>7</sup>

“The two main sects of Islam are Sunni and Shiite. Sunnis make up the vast majority. The two branches appeared after the death of the Prophet Mohammed. The divide between the two

widened over the centuries. Sunnis believed the prophet's temporal successor should be elected from among appropriate candidates. Shiites contended that Muhammad's relative, Al ibn Ab Talib (599–661), should have succeeded him. Shiite Muslims, throughout history, have not recognized elected Muslim officials, choosing instead to follow a series of *imams* (worship leaders) whom they believe are chosen by Mohammed or directly by Allah."<sup>8</sup>

B. "Muhammad was an Arab who was born in Mecca about AD 570."<sup>9</sup>

"Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, was born in Mecca around the year 570. Orphaned before he had reached the age of six, he was raised under the protection of his uncle Abu Talib. Muhammad began working as a merchant and became known for his trustworthiness. When he was about twenty-five, he married Khadija, a wealthy widow whose status elevated Muhammad's position in Meccan society. Muhammad and Khadija had four daughters and two sons, both of whom died in infancy. About fifteen or twenty years after his marriage, he began to have visions and hear mysterious voices. He sought solitude in a cave on Mount Hira on the outskirts of Mecca. One night during *Ramadan*, the traditional month of spiritual retreat, when Muhammad was about forty years old, an angel appeared to him in the form of a man and ordered him to;

Recite in the name of thy lord who created,  
Created man from a clot;  
Recite in the name of thy lord,  
Who taught by the pen,  
Taught man what he knew not.

Muhammad, fearing that he was being attacked by an evil spirit, fled down the mountain in terror. The voice called after him, 'O Muhammad, you are the messenger of God, and I am the angel Gabriel.' This revelation was soon followed by others about the one true God. Eventually, the angel told Muhammad to begin proclaiming God's message."<sup>10</sup>

"Mohammed was born in Mecca, which was the most important city in Arabia, and the center of animism and idolatry."<sup>11</sup>

"Muhammad (AD 570-642) claimed to be the last and greatest of the prophets of the god Allah. His teaching became the basis for a new religion known as Islam."<sup>12</sup>

"By the age of 40, the now religious Muhammad had his first vision. These revelations are what are recorded in the Qur'an (Koran)."<sup>13</sup>

"His name means 'highly praised,' was born to a poor family in the city of Mecca, in western Arabia."<sup>14</sup>

"In 622 Muhammad made a fateful decision. He and his followers decided to flee Mecca and move to Medina, a city several hundred miles to the north. This move is known as the Hegira, or 'Flight.' It is celebrated as year 1 in the Muslim calendar."<sup>15</sup>

“The new faith encountered opposition in Muhammed's home town of Mecca. Because of his rejection in Mecca and the ostracism of his views, Muhammad and followers withdrew to the city now known as Medina, which means in full, 'City of the Prophet,' renamed from its original Yathrib. The Hijira, which means 'flight,' marks the turning point in Islam. All Islamic calendars mark this date, July 16, 622, as their beginning. Thus, 630 AD would be 8 AH (in the year of the Hijira).”<sup>16</sup>

“After the death of his first wife [Khadijah], he took unto himself an increasing number of wives, eleven in all.”<sup>17</sup>

### **CHRISTIANITY and ISLAM IN THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

“The Western (Latin) and Eastern (Greek) divisions of Christianity began to take on distinctive shape in **7th century Christianity**. Whereas in the East the Church maintained its structure and character and evolved more slowly, in the West the Bishops of Rome (the popes) were forced to adapt more quickly and flexibly to drastically changing circumstances. In particular whereas the bishops of the East maintained clear allegiance to the Eastern Roman emperor, the Bishop of Rome, while maintaining nominal allegiance to the Eastern emperor, was forced to negotiate delicate balances with the ‘barbarian rulers’ of the former Western provinces. Although the greater number of Christians remained in the East, the developments in the West would set the stage for major developments in the Christian world during the later Middle Ages.

During the 7th century an Arabian religious leader named Muhammad ibn ‘Abdullāh began to spread the message of the Qur'an (Koran), which includes some tradition similar to those of the Christian and Jewish faith. This new faith, called *submission* or *الإسلام* (*al-'islām*) in Arabic, proclaimed the worship and obedience of a purely monotheist God or Allah in Arabic as the purpose of life, and Islam would ultimately prove to be the greatest challenge that the Christian Church would face during the Middle Ages. By the 630s Muhammad had united the entire Arabian peninsula under Islam, including the formerly Christian kingdom of Yemen. Following Muhammad's death a Muslim empire, or *caliphate*, emerged which began efforts to expand beyond Arabia. Shortly before Mohammad's death the Roman Empire and Sassanid Persian Empire had concluded decades of war, leaving both empires crippled.”<sup>18</sup>

- C. “Muslim is an Arabic word that means one who submits (to God). Islam is Arabic for submission.”<sup>19</sup>

“The name which the founder himself used for designating this faith expresses exactly the central principle -- 'Islam,' meaning 'submission' to God.”<sup>20</sup>

“Another word derived from the same Arabic verbal root is the particle, ‘Muslim,’ or ‘Moslem,’ which is used as a technical term to designate ‘those who submit.’”<sup>21</sup>

“The word Islam is a noun which is formed from the Arabic verb meaning ‘to submit, surrender or commit oneself.’ Islam means submission or surrender, and with the translation comes the idea of action, not simple stagnation. The very act of submissive commitment is at the heart of Islam, not simply a passive acceptance and surrender to doctrine. Muslim, another noun form of the same verb, means ‘the one who submits.’”<sup>22</sup>

D. “It is the only religion which started in conscious opposition to Christianity.”<sup>23</sup>

“Instinctively he took over elements from the older religions and perpetuated them in his teaching, even though his sources were in the main apocryphal and heretical.”<sup>24</sup>

E. “It has not contributed a single new germinal idea to the religious thought of the world.”<sup>25</sup>

“Like the Judeo-Christian tradition, Islam traces the origin of mankind to Adam. However, unlike any conceptualization within the Judeo-Christian tradition, Islam posits its beginning with Adam. Islam means ‘submission’, i.e. submission to Allah, and a Muslim is ‘one who submits’ to Allah. Thus, the religion of Adam was Islam, as was the religion of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, etc.

*The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah – that which We have sent by inspiration to thee – and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which thou callest them. Allah chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn (to Him). (Qur’an 42:13).*

This is not, however, to say that the Islamic religion of Adam was the same in every detail as that of Noah, or of Abraham, or of Moses, or of Jesus, or of Muhammad. In fact, it was not.”<sup>26</sup>

“Since 1945 the number of mosques in England grew from 1 to well over 1000. Over 300 of these mosques are in former churches.”

“The second half of the twentieth century brought a new identity and strength to the Islamic world. Oil became the engine of the economic growth of many of these newly independent Islamic states. The oil embargo of 1973 caused tremendous concern in the West; it brought the realization of the great strength and political power of the Islamic states.

In the last several years and today, Islam has reached new heights in its ideology and its global expansion. Millions of Muslims have emigrated to the West. Mosques are being built as rapidly as possible in Europe, formerly a place Islam had very little success. Some fifty million people annually are being drawn to Islam and in fact, after Christianity, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world.”<sup>27</sup>

II. Theologically

A. "In the main, there were three chief features of his teaching upon which he laid particular emphasis: the Unity of God, the moral responsibility of man toward God, and the judgment awaiting mankind on the day of resurrection."<sup>28</sup>

B. "The Koran [Islam's Holy Book], comes the Arabic word meaning, 'recitation.'"<sup>29</sup>

"The word Quran translated means recitation and the book's real beauty actually is revealed by its being read aloud."<sup>30</sup>

C. "The caliph Othman, who ruled from 644 to 656, ordered the first official edition of the Koran. He sent a copy of the edition to the chief mosque in each of the capital cities of the Muslim provinces. Muslims consider the Koran the words of God Himself, spoken to Muhammad by an angel."<sup>31</sup>

"Uthman ibn Affan, the third Muslim Caliph, headed the committee on revising the Koran. The committee presided over by Zaid [the prophet's former secretary] studied all copies available and prepared an edition which was canonized. All other copies were destroyed."<sup>32</sup>

D. "Parts of the Koran resemble the Bible, the Apocrypha, and the Talmud."<sup>33</sup>

"The substance of the material indicates parallelism with accounts in the apocryphal Gospels, the Mishna, the Aggad, the Midrash and other non-canonical Jewish works. The arrangement of the Quranic material was arbitrary and mechanical. The longest suras were placed first and the shorter ones toward the end."<sup>34</sup>

E. "The Muslims believe Muhammad was the last of the prophets. Jesus and the Old Testament prophets were his predecessors."<sup>35</sup>

F. "The Koran forbids the representation of human and animal figures, so orthodox Islamic art rarely pictures living beings."<sup>36</sup>

G. "Islam is unique among the religions of the world in that its sacred scriptures are avowedly the revelation of God to one man, the founder."<sup>37</sup>

"It is the Orthodox Muslim view that the Quran is the word of God transmitted to Muhammad through the Angel Gabriel from an archetype preserved in heaven. Hence it is eternal and uncreated. It is also considered the most perfect model of the Arabic language."<sup>38</sup>

H. "The structural arrangement of the Koran is in 114 chapters, or 'Suras' totaling slightly less than the New Testament, and about one-quarter of the size of the Old Testament."<sup>39</sup>

- I. “Historically, the Koran has been the most influential book in all Arabic literature.”<sup>40</sup>

“The Quran was revealed and written in the Arabic language. Because of this, and the fact it was revealed by God, Muslims deplore translations of the Quran into other languages. There is, then, no authoritative translations of the Quran into other languages. There is, then, no authoritative translation for the Quran.”<sup>41</sup>

“The Quran has been translated into forty languages and is considered the most widely read book ever written. Since it is the text from which Muslims all over the world have to study the Arabic language, the religious and literary influence of this one book could hardly be overestimated.”<sup>42</sup>

“Dedicated Muslims memorize the entire Koran, which is about the same length as the New Testament.”<sup>43</sup>

“The event that Muslims take most pride in is a child's memorizing of the entire Koran. Then the child's family holds a party for the student and the teacher, and both receive gifts.”<sup>44</sup>

- J. “The authority of the Koran is absolute for Muslims.”<sup>45</sup>

“It is the main guide for all matters of faith and practice.”<sup>46</sup>

- K. The structure of Islam.

1. The Mosque, or Muslim place of worship

“The mosque is the most important building for Muslims. Mosque comes from the Arabic masjid, which means a place of kneeling.”<sup>47</sup>

“A typical mosque has a mihrab (niche) that points to Mecca. It also contains a pulpit for the preacher a lectern for the Koran.”<sup>48</sup>

“Most mosques have at least one minaret from which the muezzin chants the call to prayer.”<sup>49</sup>

“A court and a water fountain are generally provided for the ceremonial washing before prayer.”<sup>50</sup>

2. The Imam, or leader

“The Imam is the chief officer in the mosque. The Imam's main duty is to lead the people in prayer.”<sup>51</sup>

“The caliphs led the people in all religious and political matters, so they were the chief Imams.”<sup>52</sup>

“Islam does not have an organized priesthood. Any virtuous and able Muslim can lead prayers in most mosques. However, it is usually the Imam, a person chosen for piety or scholarship, who handles the services of the mosque.”<sup>53</sup>

“The community he (Muhammed) founded was a theocracy with no distinction between Church and State, and someone must clearly succeed, not to give but to enforce the law, to lead in war and to guide in peace.”<sup>54</sup>

“Abu Bakr became, then, the first of the Four Orthodox Caliphs, all of whom were friends of the Prophet. The last of them was his cousin and the husband of his only surviving daughter, Fatima.”<sup>55</sup>

- L. “Mohammed's main practical message about God was that He would punish the wicked and reward the good people.”<sup>56</sup>

“The Koran teaches that a person goes to heaven or hell according to his works. According to the Koran, a Muslim who faithfully practices all Five Pillars and does good to others will enter heaven.”<sup>57</sup>

- M. “Paradise, with abundant pleasures for the senses, is pictured awaiting the pious believers in Allah. More than a score of passages, almost without exception, refer to gardens and flowing rivers, luxurious food and ease, and varied sensuous pleasures.”<sup>58</sup>

- N. Jihad, or holy wars

“There are at least 109 identifiable war verses in the Koran. One out of every 55 verses in the Koran is a war verse.”<sup>59</sup>

“Their reign, [the Four Orthodox Caliphs], which lasted for the next thirty years, was first occupied with the secession wars, which were fought to bring back into the fold tribes which had committed apostasy.”<sup>60</sup>

“Muhammad taught his followers that all people must convert to Islam. Rather than sending out missionaries to teach people of Allah, Muhammad and later leaders sent out armies to force people to Allah.”<sup>61</sup>

“There is a sixth religious duty associated with the five pillars. This is Jihad, the Holy War. This duty requires that when the situation warrants, men are required to go to war to spread Islam or defend it against infidels. One who dies in a Jihad is guaranteed eternal life in Paradise (heaven).”<sup>62</sup>

“The popular misconception of the Muslim warrior, advancing with sword in one hand and the Quran in the other, is a distortion of the facts.”<sup>63</sup>

“It is interesting to note that Islam knew no organized mission until very recent times. Proselytizing was usually carried out by individual Moslems who in their peaceful activities as merchants came in contact with people of various religions.”<sup>64</sup>

- O. “The Golden Age of Islam was reached with the reign of Harum al Rashid (786-809 AD) and its magnificent splendor.”<sup>65</sup>
- P. “The only unpardonable sin is ‘shirk’ or the joining of other Gods to the One Allah.”<sup>66</sup>
- Q. “The family is very important in the social economy of Islam. Marriage is required for every Muslim, even the ascetics. Muhammed commanded men to marry and propagate the race. Men may not have more than four wives, yet many cohabit with as many concubines as they choose. Although the acts of marriage is important, the sanctity of the union is not as highly regarded. A Muslim may divorce his wife at any time and for any reason. On the whole, women in Islamic culture do not enjoy the status or the privileges of the men and are very dependent on their husbands. While this sounds cruel and sexist to Westerners, it was a humane innovation in Muhammad's time. Islamic law requires what was then unheard of: each wife must be treated equally. Other practices include the veiling of women, circumcision, abstention from alcohol, gambling and certain foods. Many of the above, such as alcohol and gambling, are seen as vices in the West.”<sup>67</sup>
- R. “Islam requires every Muslim to perform certain religious duties in order to reach heaven. These are the so-called **Five Pillars of Islam**”<sup>68</sup>

There are five simple but essential observances that all practicing Muslims accept and follow. These “Pillars of Islam” represent the core that unites all Muslims.

1. “Reciting the simple confession ‘There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.’ (This is the central theme of Islam.)”

“Allah is all-knowing, all-powerful and the sovereign judge. Yet Allah is not a personal God, for he is so far above man in every way that he is not personally knowable.”<sup>69</sup>

“God does not forgive anyone for associating something with Him, while He does forgive whomever He wishes to for anything else. Anyone who gives God partners has invented an awful sin.” (Quran 4:48)



2. “Reciting prayers five times a day while facing toward Mecca.”

“Five times a day Muslims hear; this call to prayer -- the Second Pillar of Islam. At dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, evening, and bedtime a faithful Muslim follows the required prayer ritual. He removes his shoes and stands on a prayer rug facing toward Mecca. While reciting memorized prayers, he stands, sits, kneels, and bows. A Muslim follows this prayer ritual no matter where he is.”<sup>70</sup>

“Muslims worship five times a day: at daybreak, noon, mid afternoon, sunset, and evening. It helps keep believers mindful of God in the stress of work and family. It resets the spiritual focus, reaffirms total dependence on God, and puts worldly concerns within the perspective of the last judgment and the afterlife.”<sup>71</sup>

3. “Giving alms (money) to the poor.”

“A Muslim family must give a certain amount of their income to help the poor. They give either money or products from their fields and flocks as alms. Usually the government collects and gives out the alms. Today Muslims give their alms by paying a religious tax.”<sup>72</sup>

“In Islam, the true owner of everything is God, not man. People are given wealth as a trust from God. *Zakah* is worship and thanksgiving to God by supporting the poor, and through it one’s wealth is purified. It requires an annual contribution of 2.5 percent of an individual’s wealth and assets. Therefore, *Zakah* is not mere ‘charity’, it is an obligation on those who have received their wealth from God to meet the needs of less fortunate members of the community.”<sup>73</sup>

4. “Fasting from sunrise to sunset during the sacred month of Ramadan.”

“Ramadan is the month in which Muhammad had his first vision. For the twenty-eight days of the month, Muslims must not eat, drink, or smoke between dawn and sunset. Once the sun sets, however, life returns to normal. Muslims visit their friends and family, attend religious instruction in the mosques, and, of course, eat. When the sun rises, the fast is once more in effect. At the end of Ramadan, a great feast is held at which the Muslims wear new clothes and eat special foods. The Muslims know it is sunset when a black and white thread both look gray.”<sup>74</sup>

5. “Making a pilgrimage to Mecca. Every able Muslim is commanded to make this pilgrimage at least once in his lifetime.”

“The pilgrimage is the highlight of a Muslim's life. A pilgrim receives great respect from other Muslims.”<sup>75</sup>

“Every year over two million believers from a diversity of cultures and languages travel from all over the world to the sacred city of Mecca to respond to God’s call.”<sup>76</sup>

5. There are many aspects of belief in which one who adheres to Islam must have firm conviction. From those aspects, the most important are six, known as the “Six Articles of Belief.”

The following information is taken from <http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/4/>

1. Belief in God

Islam upholds strict monotheism and belief in God forms the heart of their faith. Islam teaches belief in one God who neither gives birth nor was born Himself, and **has no share in His caretaking of the world**. He alone gives life, causes death, brings good, causes affliction, and provides sustenance for His creation. God in Islam is the sole Creator, Lord, Sustainer, Ruler, Judge, and Savior of the universe. He has no equal in His qualities and abilities, such as knowledge and power. All worship, veneration and homage is to be directed to God and none else. Any breach of these concepts negates the basis of Islam [Emphasis added].

2. Belief in the Angels

Adherents to Islam must believe in the Unseen world as mentioned in the Quran. From this world are the angels’ emissaries of God, each assigned with a specific task. They have no free-will or ability to disobey; it is their very nature to be God's faithful servants. Angels are not to be taken as demigods or objects of praise or veneration; they are mere servants of God obeying His every command.

3. Belief in the Prophets and Messengers

Islam is a universal and inclusive religion. Muslims believe in the prophets, not just the Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of God be upon him, but the Hebrew prophets, including Abraham and Moses, as well as the prophets of the New Testament, Jesus, and John the Baptist. Islam teaches God did not send prophets to Jews and Christians alone, rather He sent prophets to all nations in the world with one central message: worship God alone. Muslim must believe in all prophets sent by God mentioned in the Quran, without making any distinction between them. Muhammad was sent with the final message, and there is no prophet to come after him. His message is final and eternal, and through him God completed His Message to humanity.

4. Belief in the Sacred Texts

Muslims believe in all books that God has sent down to humanity through His prophets. These books include the Books of Abraham, the Torah of Moses, the Psalms of David, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These books all had the same source (God), the same message, and all were revealed in truth. This does not mean that they have been preserved in truth. Muslims (and many other Jewish and Christian scholars and historians) find that the books in existence today

are not the original scriptures, which in fact have been lost, changed, and/or translated over and over again, losing the original message.

“If every statement or story that is repeated in the Koran was given only once, the entire Koran would slim down to approximately 40 percent of its published length.”<sup>77</sup>

#### 5. Belief in Life after Death

Muslims believe that a day will come when all of creation will perish and resurrected in order to be judged for their deeds: The Day of Judgment. On this day, all will gather in the presence of God and each individual will be questioned about their life in the world and how they lived it. Those who held correct beliefs about God and life, and followed their belief with righteous deeds will enter Paradise, even though they may pay for some of their sins in Hell if God out of His Infinite Justice chooses not to forgive them. As for those who fell into polytheism in its many faces, they will enter Hellfire, never to leave there from.

#### 6. Belief in the Divine Decree

Islam asserts that God has full power and knowledge of all things, and that nothing happens except by His Will and with His full knowledge. What is known as divine decree, fate, or "destiny" is known in Arabic as al-Qadr. The destiny of every creature is already known to God.

This belief however does not contradict with the idea of man's free will to choose his course of action. God does not force us to do anything; we can choose whether to obey or disobey Him. Our choice is known to God before we even do it. We do not know what our destiny is; but God knows the fate of all things.

Therefore, we should have firm faith that whatever befalls us; it is according to God's will and with His full knowledge. There may be things that happen in this world that we do not understand, but we should trust that God has wisdom in all things.

### III. Practically

#### A. Sharia Law

The *Sharia* (literally “the path leading to the watering place”) is Islamic law formed by traditional Islamic scholarship, which most Muslim groups adhere to. In Islam, Sharia is the expression of the divine will, and “constitutes a system of duties that are incumbent upon a Muslim by virtue of his religious belief.”<sup>78</sup>

#### **“But what about incorporating Sharia into British law?”**

In two important areas British law has incorporated religious legal considerations. British food regulations allow meat to be slaughtered according to Jewish and Islamic practices - a touchstone issue for both communities.

Secondly, the Treasury has approved Sharia-compliant financial products such as mortgages and investments. Islam forbids interest on the basis that it is money unjustly earned. These products are said by supporters to meet the needs of modern life in a way that fits the faith.

**Has any western nation allowed Sharia to be used in full?**

Not at all. Canada is widely reported to have come close - leading to protests in 2005.

But in reality the proposals were little different from the existing religious arbitration rules here in the UK.

Experts considered establishing Sharia-related family courts to ease the burden on civil courts - but said these would have to observe the basic human rights guarantees of Canadian law."<sup>79</sup>

B. Art<sup>80</sup>

It is often said that Islam bans images of people or animals, but this is false. As Muslims believe that God is unique and without associate, He cannot of course be represented. As the Koran is not a narrative like the Torah or the Gospels, there is little reason for Muslims to tell religious stories through pictures.

Instead, Islamic religious art has focused on the glorification of God's word, specifically by writing it beautifully, and accompanying the Arabic script with geometric and floral designs known as *arabesques*, in which plants grow according to the laws of geometry rather than nature. Some people believe that these designs have deep spiritual and mystical meaning, while others believe they are simply beautiful patterns. Believers are free to see in these designs whatever they like – this sense of ambiguity is one of the hallmarks of Islamic art.

Much of Islamic secular art, like religious art, is decorated only with geometric and vegetal patterns and inscriptions, but many objects, whether glazed ceramics, carved ivories, intricately woven silks, or luxurious carpets, are decorated with lively human and animal figures set individually or in scenes.

Given the Islamic fascination with God's word, the art of the book has always been one of the favorite forms of Islamic art, and calligraphers in the Islamic lands have the fame accorded painters and sculptors in the West. Although transcribing the Koran and decorating the pages with beautiful designs was always revered, calligraphers and painters, particularly in Iran, India and Turkey, also prepared manuscripts of epic and lyric poetry, history and geography with beautiful calligraphy and exquisite miniatures.

C. Mathematics

Medieval Muslims made invaluable contributions to the study of mathematics, and their key role is clear from the many terms derived from Arabic. Perhaps the most famous mathematician was Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi (ca. 800-ca. 847), author of several treatises of earth-shattering importance. His book *On the Calculation with Hindu Numerals*, written about 825, was principally responsible for the diffusion of the Indian system of numeration (Arabic numerals) in the Islamic lands and the West.

IV. In relation to Christianity

A. The Bible [Bibliology]

“Christianity and Islam have different scriptures, with Islam using the Quran and Christianity the Bible. Both texts offer an account of the life and works of Jesus. Belief in Jesus is an important part of Islamic theology, and Muslims view the Christian Gospels as altered, while Christians consider Gospels to be authoritative and the Quran to be a later, fabricated or apocryphal work. Both religions believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, but the Biblical and Quranic accounts differ.”<sup>81</sup>

B. Trinity – Jesus [Christology]

“Muslims, unlike Christians, do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, although they do believe he was a prophet.”<sup>82</sup>

C. Salvation [Soteriology]

“The Christian concept of ‘vicarious atonement’ (the idea that Jesus died for the sins of humanity) is alien to the Islamic concept of personal responsibility. Islam teaches that on the Day of Judgment every person will be resurrected and will be accountable to God for their every word and deed. Consequently, a practicing Muslim is always striving to be righteous while hoping and praying for God's acceptance and grace.”<sup>83</sup>

“There is hardly anything more central to Judeo-Christianity than divine atonement, yet that is a concept Mohammed loathed and denied, rendering Islam antithetical in the extreme to Judeo-Christianity.”<sup>84</sup>

“I learned that Islam is unique among non-Christian religions. It stands alone as the only belief system that, due to its very design, frustrates anyone who seeks to use the redemptive-analogy approach. Alas, not even *once* in 27 tellings of the Exodus saga did Mohammed include *the* most integral component of the story: *the Passover!* [Emphasis his]”<sup>85</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.citizenwarrior.com/2008/10/islamic-memplex-helped-create-america.html>
- <sup>2</sup> Sunan of Abu-Dawood, Hadith 1625.
- <sup>3</sup> Richard Bulliet, *"The case for Islamo-Christian civilization,"* Columbia University Press.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/3/>
- <sup>5</sup> McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. *Handbook of Today's Religions.* (San Bernardino, Calif.: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1983), 377.
- <sup>6</sup> Source: Council on American-Islamic Relations
- <sup>7</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam>
- <sup>8</sup> <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/10-things-to-know-about-islam/>
- <sup>9</sup> *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1988, 10:463.
- <sup>10</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/profilesmuhammed.html>
- <sup>11</sup> Hume, Robert E. *The World's Living Religions.* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1959), 222.
- <sup>12</sup> Fisher, David A. *World History for Christian Schools.* (Greenville, South Carolina: Bob Jones University Press, 1984), 139.
- <sup>13</sup> McDowell, 379.
- <sup>14</sup> Fisher, 139.
- <sup>15</sup> Fisher, 139.
- <sup>16</sup> McDowell, 380.
- <sup>17</sup> Hume, 225.
- <sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity\\_in\\_the\\_7th\\_century](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_the_7th_century)
- <sup>19</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 463.
- <sup>20</sup> Hume, 221.
- <sup>21</sup> Hume, 221.
- <sup>22</sup> McDowell, 378.
- <sup>23</sup> Hume, 221.
- <sup>24</sup> Bishlawy, Salma, "Islam" in *Religion in the Twentieth Century.* Edited by Vergilius Ferm. (New York: The Philosophical Library, 1948), 158.
- <sup>25</sup> Hume, 221.
- <sup>26</sup> <http://www.islamicity.org/3068/did-islam-just-copy-from-judaism-christianity/>
- <sup>27</sup> <http://www.30-days.net/islam/history/islam-today/>
- <sup>28</sup> Bishlawy, 157.
- <sup>29</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.
- <sup>30</sup> Bishlawy, 167.
- <sup>31</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.
- <sup>32</sup> Bishlawy, 167.
- <sup>33</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.
- <sup>34</sup> Bishlawy, 167.
- <sup>35</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.
- <sup>36</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.
- <sup>37</sup> Hume, 229.
- <sup>38</sup> Bishlawy, 167.
- <sup>39</sup> Hume, 230.
- <sup>40</sup> Hume, 231.
- <sup>41</sup> McDowell, 388.
- <sup>42</sup> Bishlawy, 168.
- <sup>43</sup> Fisher, 141.
- <sup>44</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 465.
- <sup>45</sup> Hume, 231.
- <sup>46</sup> McDowell, 387.
- <sup>47</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 464.

- <sup>48</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 466.
- <sup>49</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 466.
- <sup>50</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 466.
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- <sup>52</sup> *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1988, 10:466.
- <sup>53</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia*, 466.
- <sup>54</sup> McDowell, 381.
- <sup>55</sup> Bishlawy, 159.
- <sup>56</sup> Hume, 233.
- <sup>57</sup> Bunker, Susan M. *World Studies for Christian Schools*. (Greenville, South Carolina: Bob Jones University Press, 1985), 217.
- <sup>58</sup> Hume, 235..
- <sup>59</sup> Don Richardson, *Secrets of the Koran*, 28.
- <sup>60</sup> Bishlawy, 159.
- <sup>61</sup> Bunker, 220.
- <sup>62</sup> McDowell, 392.
- <sup>63</sup> Bishlawy, 170.
- <sup>64</sup> Bishlawy, 170.
- <sup>65</sup> Bishlawy, 161.
- <sup>66</sup> Bishlawy, 161.
- <sup>67</sup> McDowell, 393.
- <sup>68</sup> Fisher, 141,142 #1-5.
- <sup>69</sup> McDowell, 389.
- <sup>70</sup> Bunker, 218.
- <sup>71</sup> <http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/3/>
- <sup>72</sup> Bunker, 219.
- <sup>73</sup> <http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/3/>
- <sup>74</sup> Bunker, 219.
- <sup>75</sup> Bunker, 219.
- <sup>76</sup> <http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/3/>
- <sup>77</sup> Don Richardson, *Secrets of the Koran*, 98.
- <sup>78</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam>
- <sup>79</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/7234870.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7234870.stm)
- <sup>80</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/cultureart.html>
- <sup>81</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity\\_and\\_Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_and_Islam)
- <sup>82</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/terror/background/6.html>
- <sup>83</sup> <http://www.30factsaboutislam.com/>
- <sup>84</sup> Don Richardson, *Secrets of the Koran*, 239.
- <sup>85</sup> Don Richardson, *Secrets of the Koran*, 18, 33.

