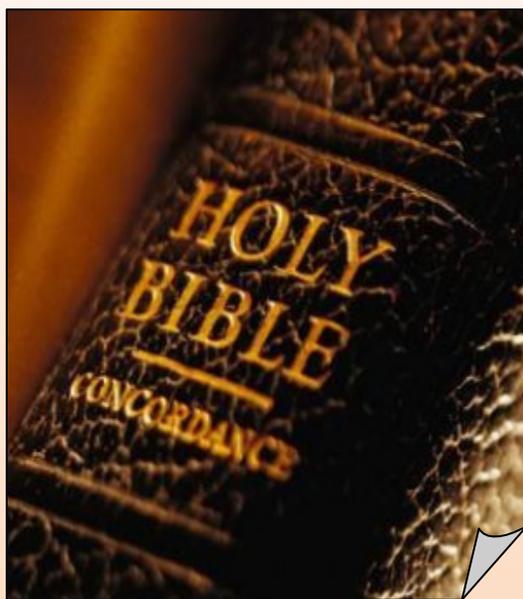


**THE HOLY PROPHET
MUHAMMAD (PBUH),
THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR OF
JESUS (PBUH)**



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PREFACE

Every Prophet of God has announced the advent of the Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (pbuh), the Seal of all prophets. Their teachings also are filled with such good news, but alas not all people are ready to remove the veil which is over their eyes so that truth may surge forth and that they may be filled with the divine light, a divine promise which shall endure till the Day of Judgement. This booklet, written through the grace of Allah, for all *Ilm* (knowledge) proceeds from Him alone, is an eye-opener on the real successorship of Jesus (pbuh). Quranic and biblical references have been inserted to make comprehension better on this matter. May Allah open the eyes and hearts of all real truth seekers. *Insha-Allah (God-willing)*.

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INTRODUCTION

The following Quranic verse is the foundation of multiple explanations in view of the natural successorship of Muhammad (pbuh), the Prophet to all mankind to Jesus, the last glorious prophet of the Jewish people.

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ

“And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said: “O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me, and giving the good news of a Messenger who will come after me, his name being Ahmad.” But when he came to them with Clear Signs, they said, “This is evident sorcery!” (Quran 61: 7)

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) is the natural successor to Jesus Christ (as) where God says in the Holy Quran: *“...and giving the good news of a Messenger who will come after me, his name being Ahmad.” (Quran 61: 7)*

Successions are of many kinds like the birthright of the first-born as in Jewish law, or the ascending of the eldest son or daughter to the kingly throne, or by election, to select a candidate by the vote of the majority. Or theologically, an appointment by divine decree of God’s chosen messengers. Like the call of Abraham, Moses, Jesus or Muhammad (pbuh) who were appointed or anointed in consecration to their office, Muhammad’s (pbuh) succession to Jesus Christ (pbuh) is multi-faceted:

1. Chronologically, in history as a sequence of event in time;
2. By being chosen by God;
3. In the fulfilment of the prophecies of his predecessors;
4. By bringing the guidance of God to perfection – *“for he will guide you into all truth”* (said Jesus Christ).

The prophet Moses preceded Jesus Christ (as) by some 1300 years and Muhammad (pbuh) succeeded to that high office vacated by Jesus some six centuries later. It was the 12 of Rabi First, in the year of the Elephant or the 29th of August 570 of the Christian era that Muhammad (pbuh) the praiseworthy, on whom all praise is due, was born in the sacred city of Mecca in Pagan Arabia.

His people the Quraish remembered the year of his birth as the “Era of the Elephant” because just two months before the birth of the child Abraha Al-Ashram, the Abyssinian viceroy of Yemen had attacked the sacred sanctuary at Mecca at the head of his troops, riding a huge African elephant.

A terrifying sight never to be erased from their memory and a still more shocking end to the invasion, the miraculous destruction of Abraha and his army as recorded in Surah Al-Fil or the Elephant.

“Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant? Did He not make their plan into misguidance? And He sent against them birds in flocks, striking them with stones of hard clay, and He made them like eaten straw.” (Quran 105: 2-6)

God Almighty chooses His own messengers; He uses his own standard although we may not always understand the wisdom of it. Paul cries the anomaly: *“for the Jews require a sign (miracles to convince) and the Greeks seek after wisdom.”* (1 Corinthians 1: 22).

But worldly wise as Paul was, he found that his wisdom was “a stumbling-block” to the Jews and “foolishness” to the Greeks. God chose Moses (as) a man who was a fugitive from justice and a stutterer. The Holy Bible calls him a man with *“uncircumcised lips”*. (Exodus 6: 12)

Despite his difficulties when commissioned to confront Pharaoh, the greatest tyrant of the age, Moses (as) cries out to the God of Mercy:

Moses said: *“O my Lord! “My Lord, expand for me my breast, And ease for me my task, And untie the knot from my tongue, That they may understand my speech. And appoint for me a minister from my family - Aaron, my brother. Increase through him my strength, and let him share my task, that we may exalt*

You much, And remember You much. Indeed, You are of us ever Seeing.” (Allah) said, “You have been granted your request, O Moses.” (Quran 20: 26-37)

Then comes Jesus (as) who was chosen by God. According to Christian teachings, he was a carpenter and the son of a carpenter, with a dubious genealogy as recorded in the Gospels: *“And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed the son of Joseph...)” (Luke 3: 23)*

Acknowledged today by a thousand million Muslims that Jesus Christ (as) was born miraculously – without any male intervention, the followers of Christ created two separate genealogies for a man who had no genealogy.

Between the Gospels of Matthew and Luke they give this mighty messenger of God sixty-six fathers and grandfathers. And of these two separate lists, only one name is common to these two hosts and that is of Joseph the carpenter, who does not fit in anywhere because, as Luke records above, he was only the *“supposed”* father of Jesus.

In a *“shock survey of Anglican bishops”* in June 1984 it was revealed that 31 of their 39 Bishops thought that *“Christ miracles, the virgin birth and the resurrection might not have happened exactly as described in the Bible.”*

Jesus Christ (as) though spiritually rich in wisdom, light and truth, philosophised light-heartedly about the beggars of the world, when he said: *“there came unto him (Jesus) a woman having an alabaster box of every precious ointment, and poured it on his head...”*

But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying: *“To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.”*

... He (Jesus) said unto them: *“... For ye have the poor always with you, but (poor) me ye have not always.” (Matthew 26: 7-11)*

But when destitution stared him in the face, when poverty, penury and need touched his own dear self, he cried pathetically:

(And Jesus saith unto him): *“The forces have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the son of man (referring to himself) hath not where to lay his head.”* (Matthew 8: 20, also repeated in Luke 9-58)

And yet God chose him (Jesus (as)): *Unique and inscrutable as Thy ways O Lord!*

Muhammad (pbuh) the chosen one as mention in the Holy Quran:

“It is He who has sent among the unlettered a Messenger from themselves reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom - although they were before in clear error” (62: 3)

Amazing as it may seem, I am not amazed anymore! For this is His way – He chose an *Ummi* (non-literate) prophet for an *Ummi* (illiterate) nation. God chooses His Messengers and God chooses His people. In the realm of the spirit no nation was as favoured as the Jews and yet Moses (as) is made to bewail against his own people:

“We have been rebellious against the Lord from the day I knew you.” (Deuteronomy 9: 24)

In this last will and testament of Moses (pbuh) the Israelites frustrate their “meek and gentle” messenger who is forced to rail against their continual stubborn resistance and arrogant attitudes to God’s guidance:

“For I knew thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck; behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death?” (Deuteronomy 31: 27).

Alas how true! I am not going to philosophise on God’s choice. But in the very next chapter the fire of God’s anger is kindled to blaze and he decries the Jew:

“They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God’s; they (the Jews) have provoked me to anger with their vanities; and I will move them to jealousy with those which are NOT A PEOPLE; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.” (Deuteronomy 32:21).

CHAPTER 1

JEW'S SUBSTITUTED

Anyone with a Modicum of scriptural knowledge will be able to guess who in the eyes of these arrogant, racist Jews is “not a people”- a non-entity and “a foolish nation” if not their Ishmaelite cousins. The Arabs have been “ROAMING UNNOTICED IN ITS DESERTS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD”?

THE ARABS

Alexander the Great passed them by; the Persians passed them by; the Egyptians passed them by; and the Romans passed them by. It would have been an absolute liability for any nation to conquer and subdue them. But the Creator did not pass them by. He picked them up from the depths of darkness and transformed them into torch-bearers of light and learning to the world. “*I will move them (the Jews) to jealousy*”. This jealousy is a cultivated sickness.

Remember, Sarah and Hagar the two wives of Abraham (pbuh), the friend of God? The jealousy of Sarah was bequeathed to her children and on to nations and tribes yet unborn.

Not so long ago I read a book on the discovery of medicine written by a Jewish Medical man. I can unfortunately not remember the name of the author and failed to retrace the book.

However, the wordings of the tribute paid by this Jewish author to his Semitic (Arab) cousins have made an indelible impression on my mind. And I quote from memory:

“GOATHERDS AND CAMEL DRIVERS SITTING ON THE THRONE OF THE CAESARS”

Full of spite, venom and sarcasm, but how true! This is what God did and always does. He honours whom He wills. This is what he does to show his Mighty Hand (power)!

“If ye turn back (from the path), He will substitute in your stead another people; then they would not be like you! (Quran 47: 39).

It is surely one of the greatest miracles of history that from the backwater of Arabia there should have exploded a group of men, companions of a prophet, who within the space of a few brief decades were able to create a magnificent civilisation extending from the Pyrenees to the gates of China.

THE LAST WARNING

Therefore going is the exact fulfilment of Jesus Christ’s (pbuh), (the last of the great Jewish prophets) own prediction of the displacement of the Jewish race in the spiritual guidance of man. In the words of the master himself: *“Therefore I say unto you (Jews), the kingdom of God shall be taken away from you (Jews), and shall be given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”* (Matthew 21: 43)

CHAPTER 2

JUST ONE FULL PROPHECY

“And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said: “...and giving the good news of a Messenger who will come after me, his name being Ahmad.” (Quran 61: 7)

Just a cursory glance, a rapid reading, a hurried look at the previous verse will satisfy the Muslim that Jesus Christ (pbuh) did indeed prophesy the advent of Muhammad (pbuh), the Messenger of God. The Muslim is puzzled at the stubbornness, vanity and tunnel vision of the Christian which prevents him from seeing his own inner light and listening to his conscience so as not to recognise the obvious.

The Christian in turn is puzzled at the hard hearted obstinacy of the Jews, a nation endowed with such creative genius, which, despite a thousand and one prophecies in their own Bible (the Old Testament) regarding the coming of the “Messiah”, are totally incapable of recognising their lord and “saviour”.

Are they both somewhat blind? No! Neither the Jews nor the Christians are necessarily impervious to truth. The trouble is that we all pick up our prejudices from childhood. Simply reading the verses or listening to lectures and getting that smug satisfaction of being in the know will not help spreading the truth.

This is the age of the “EVERYMAN”. The age of the professional is over. It is the duty of every Muslim-man, woman or child to get involved, each according to his or her capacity. Memorize the above verse with its meaning as well as the quotations preceding and those that follow so that you may feel equipped to share our Deen with non-Muslims. There are no short-cuts to *Dawah* (propagation)!

Perhaps this is not the first time you are reading or might have heard about the prophecies in the Jewish and Christian scriptures regarding the advent of the Seal messenger of God - Muhammad (pbuh), the Mercy unto all mankind. And perhaps you have at times made some half-hearted and skimpy efforts at suggesting that our beloved prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was prophesied in

the Holy Bible. But when proof was demanded, you simply not able to, because you had not done any home work. Remember, there is no substitute for hard work.

BIBLICAL CONFIRMATION

Remember, that in the sixth century of the Christian Era, when Muhammad (pbuh) was chanting God's words which was systematically "*put into his mouth*", the Arabic Bible had not yet been translated. He could never have known that he was fulfilling and confirming the utterances of his predecessor (Jesus (pbuh)) to the letter.

ONLY FOR THE ISRAELITES

And remember, Jesus the son of Mary, said: "*O children of Israel I am the messenger of God sent to you*" (the Jews) (Quran 61: 7)

JESUS FOR JEWS ONLY

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying, O ye not into the may of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter yet not. But go you rather unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 10: 5-6).

NOT FOR DOGS

And behold a woman of Canaan came ... and cried unto him saying, "*Have mercy on me... My daughter is seriously possessed with a devil.*" But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "*send her away: for she crieth after us.*" But he answered and said, "*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" But she came and knelt before him, saying, "*Lord, help me. But he answered her and said, it is not fair to take the children bread and cast it to the dogs.*" (Matthew 15: 22-26)

It goes to the credit of this Jewish prophet that he practised what he preached. In his lifetime he never converted a single Gentile (non-Jews). And of his hand-picked elect (his twelve disciples), he made sure that they belonged to his tribe so that his other prophecy might find fulfilment: "*When the son of*

Glory, ye (the disciples) also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Matthew 19: 28).

NO NEW RELIGION

God say in the Holy Quran: *“confirming the law (which) came before me” (61: 7)*

The messiah Jesus was no mealy-mouthed messenger among the Jews. Like his predecessors Amos and Ezekiel or Isaiah and Jeremiah, he was trenchant in his condemnation of Jewish formalism and hypocrisies. His novel approach and militant preaching had created certain misgivings amongst the religious hierarchy.

The scribes and the Pharisees came to him again and again to test him as to his bona fides. To allay their suspicions that he had brought no new fangled religion, and that his was the confirmation of all the teachings that had gone before him. He says: *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law (Hebrew-Torah) or the prophets: I am come not to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one little shall in no wise pass from the law (Torah), till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men, so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5: 17-19)*

Compare this phrase: “CONFIRMING THE LAW (WHICH CAME) BEFORE ME,” these seven words at the beginning of the verse in (61: 7) and with the three verses of Matthew above, and you will not fail to note that there is no wordiness in the Quranic diction. It conveys God’s message concisely, with clarity and precision.

Father: the use of the word “father” in relation to God was cut out from Islam owing to the perversion of the idea among the Christian. The father of Truth chooses His own prophets, and He speaks “TO THEM IN A VOICE Stronger THAN THE VOICE OF Thunder”.

The Quran had come to confirm, correct and complete divine revelation, or whatever was left of it in unworthy hands.

“This Quran is not such as can be produced by other than Allah; on the contrary a confirmation it is of what was before it and a detailed explanation of the (previous) Book, about which there is no doubt, from the Lord of the worlds.”
(Quran 10: 37)

THE GOOD NEWS

“And giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad” (61: 7).

The prophecy in the words of Jesus (pbuh) regarding the advent of Muhammad (pbuh) the messenger of God, “Ahmad”, or “Muhammad”, the praised one, is almost a translation of the Greek word Periclytos.

In the present Gospel of John 14: 16, 15:26, and 16: 7, the word “comforter” in the English version for the Greek word “Paracletos”, which, means “Advocate”, one called to the help of another, a kind friend, rather than “comforter”.

Our doctors contend that Paracletos is a corrupt reading for Periclytos, and that in the original saying of Jesus there was a prophecy of our Holy Prophet by the name of Ahmad. Even if we read Paraclete, it would imply to the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and especially for Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (pbuh) who is “a mercy for all creatures” (Quran 21: 107) and “most kind and merciful to the believer.” (Quran 9: 128) etc.

“But when he came to them with clear signs, they said: “this is Evident Sorcery!”
(Quran 61: 7)

Thus concludes verse 7 of chapter 61 under discussion. “The prophet of Islam was foretold in many ways; and when he came he showed forth many clear signs for his whole life from beginning to end was one vast miracle. He fought and won against odds. Without learning from men he taught the highest wisdom. He melted hearts that were hard, and he strengthened hearts that were tender and required support in all his sayings and doings men of discernment could see the working of God’s hand yet the sceptics called it SORCERY, jugglery-magic!

And they called his miraculous fulfilment of prophecy magic, jugglery, enchantment, that which became the most solid fact of human history, Islam!

CHAPTER 3

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IS THE “PARACLETE”

To the sincere seekers of truth it is obvious that Muhammad (pbuh) is the promised Paraclete or comforter, alternatively called Helper; Advocate, Counsellor, etc. of the prophecies of Jesus (pbuh) in the Gospel of St. John. In the Holy Quran God Almighty puts the name “Ahmad” which is another name for Muhammad (pbuh) in the mouth of Jesus (pbuh).

The Christian controversialist, Bible-thumper, hot-Gospeller flippantly scoffs at the suggestion. The Christian missionary does not deny that Jesus (pbuh) did make a prophecy about someone coming after him. But “Ahmad” to him seems too far-fetched. The most commonly accepted name by Christendom is “Comforter”. It does not really matter. Comforter or any other equivalent term will do. We will settle for comforter as used in the most popular Bible translation the “King James version”.

Ask your adversary, your disputant whether Jesus (pbuh) spoke the English language? “Most definitely not” any Christian will say. If you are sharing this with an Arab Christian then you can ask him whether his “Lord” used the word “MOOUZZI?” Surely not, because Arabic was not his language. Did Jesus (pbuh) prophecy “UMTHOKOZISI”? (Comforter in Zulu) or “Trooster” from the Afrikaans Bible? The answer again is definite NO!

The Christian are rightfully boasting that they now have translated the complete Bible into hundreds of different languages, and the New Testament (in which this prophecy abounds) into more than two thousand different languages and dialects. So the Christian genius has invented more than 2000 different names in 2000 different languages for this one candidate comforter!

PNEUMA: GHOST OR SPIRIT?

The church fathers had developed a sickness by translating names of people, for which they had no right to do. For example like Esau to Jesus, Messiah to Christ, Cephas to Peter and so on.

The closest one can ever get to the original utterance of Jesus (pbuh) in the Christian scriptures is the Greek word "Paracletos" which also has to be rejected because the master did not speak Greek!

But let's not be difficult for the purpose of this discussion and accept the Greek word Paracletos and its English equivalent comforter. Ask any learned Christian man as to whom the comforter is? You will unmistakably hear- "*the comforter is the Holy Ghost!*" from (John 14: 26)

We must educate the Christian mind with regards to his misnomer - "Holy Ghost". "Pneuma" is the Greek root word for SPIRIT. There is no separate word for GHOST in the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, and the Christians now boast 24,000 different manuscripts in their possession of which no two are identically.

"HOLY SPIRIT" IS HOLY PROPHET

It may be noted that no Biblical scholar of any standing has ever equated the "Paracletos" of John in the original Greek with the Holy Ghost. Now we can say with one breath that if the comforter is the "Holy Spirit" then that Holy Spirit is the Holy Prophet!

As Muslims we acknowledge that every prophet of God is Holy without sin. But whenever the expression "The Holy Prophet" is used among Muslims it is universally accepted as referring to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). So even if we accept the above incongruous saying - "*the comforter which is the Holy Spirit*" as Gospel truth, even then this prophecy will fit Muhammad (pbuh) like a glove, without any stretching of its meaning.

The same John, who is supposed to have authored the Gospel bearing his name, also penned three more Epistles which are also part of the Christian

Bible. Amazingly he has used the same terminology of “Holy Spirit” for “Holy Prophet”.

“Beloved, believe not every Spirit, but try the Spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4: 1)

You can observe that the word spirit is used here synonymously with a prophet. A true spirit is a true prophet, and a false spirit is a false prophet. But for the so-called “born-again” Christian who see only with eyes of emotion. When they come to the first word “spirit” in the above verse they should give a notation to compare it with (Matthew 7: 15) which confirm that false prophets are false spirits.

So according to St. John the Holy Spirit is the Holy Prophet and the Holy Prophet is Muhammad (pbuh) the messenger of God.

But St. John does not leave us in the air, guessing the true from the false. He gives us an acid test for recognising the true prophet. He says:

“Hereby know you the Spirit of God. Every Spirit that confessed that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.” (1 John 4: 2)

According to John’s own interpretation in verse one above the word “spirit” is synonymous with the word prophet. So verse two “Spirit of God” would mean prophet of God and “Every Spirit” would stand for every prophet. You have a right to know as to what the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) says about “Jesus Christ”.

Jesus Christ (pbuh) is spoken by name no less than 25 times in the Holy Quran. He is honoured as: Isa Ibn Mariam (Jesus the son of Mary), An-Nabi (the prophet), As-Saaliheen (the righteous), Kalimatullah (word of God), Ruhullah (Spirit of God), Masihullah (Christ of God). Behold 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 nearest to God.” (Quran 3: 46).

The comforter in (John 14: 26) can never be the “Holy Ghost” because Jesus (pbuh) had already explained:

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.” (John 14: 16).

The emphasis here is on the word “ANOTHER”; another, a different one, an additional one, but of the same kind, yet distinctly different from the first. Who is then the first comforter?

The Christian world is unanimous that in this case the speaker himself- Jesus Christ (pbuh) is the first comforter, then the other; the one to follow must be of like nature, subject to the same conditions of hunger, thirst, fatigue, sorrow and death.

But this promised comforter was to *“abide with you for ever!”* No one life for ever Jesus (pbuh) was mortal so must the coming comforter also be mortal. No son of man can ever be immortal!

“Every soul shall have a taste of death.” (Quran 3: 186)

The soul does not really die, but when it separates from the body at the time of the death of the body, the soul will get a taste of death. But our comforter was to “ABIDE”, continue endure for ever. All comforters abide with us for ever. Moses (pbuh) is in his teachings and Muhammad (pbuh) also is here with us in his teachings today. This is not my novel idea trying to justify the preposterous. I say this with conviction and on the authority of Jesus Christ (pbuh) himself.

In Luke, Chapter Sixteen, Jesus (pbuh) tells us the story of the “rich man, poor man”.

At death both find themselves at opposite ends one in the heaven and the other in the hell. The rich man (Dives) simmering in hell cries to the father Abraham to send the beggar (lazarus) to slake his thirst. But when every plea fails him, as a last favour, requests that father Abraham send the beggar back to earth to warn his living brothers against their impending doom if they heeded not the warnings of God.

“But Abraham said, “If they (those still alive on earth) won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even though someone rises from the dead”. (To warn them) (Luke 16: 31).

Jesus (pbuh) uttered the above parable centuries after the demise of the prophets of Israel like Jeremiah, Hosea, Zechariah, etc and over thirteen hundred years after Moses (pbuh).

The Pharisees at the time of Jesus (pbuh) and we today can still listen to “MOSES AND THE PROPHETS”, for they are still alive, and with us here today in their teaching.

ADVENT OF COMFORTER CONDITIONAL

The comforter is definitely not the “Holy Ghost” because the coming of the comforter was conditional whereas that of the Holy Ghost was not as we observe in the prophecy.

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is expedient for you that I go for IF I GO not away, the comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 16: 7)

“If I don’t go he won’t come, but if I go, I will send him”. There are numerous instances in the Holy Bible about the coming and going of the Holy Ghost, before the birth and departure of the Messiah. Do yourself a favour; please verify these references in your Bible.

B.C – BEFORE CHRIST’S BIRTH

“... And he (John the Baptist) shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.” (Luke 1: 15).

“... And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.” (Luke 1: 41).

“And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost.” (Luke 1: 61).

A.C AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH

“... And the Holy Ghost was upon him (simeon) Luke 2: 6)

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him (Jesus).”
(Luke 3: 22).

From the above quotations, before and after the birth of Jesus (pbuh), one cannot help admiring St. Luke who appears to be a specialist on the Holy Ghost. We may well ask the Christians after the descent of the “dove”, with whose help did Jesus (pbuh) perform his many miracles if not with the help of the Holy Ghost?

Let the master himself tell us. When accused by his own people, then Jews, that he was working in league with Beelzebub (the chief of the devils) to work his miracles, Jesus (pbuh) rhetorically question them, *“How can Satan cast out Satan”?*

The Jews imputed that this spirit of holiness, the spirit of God - which was helping him, was devilish. This was treason of the highest order. So he gives them a dire warning: *“... but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, it shall never be forgiven...”* (Matthew 12: 31).

This “Holy Ghost” is none other than what Matthew himself has described in three verses before quoting the master.

“But if I (Jesus) cast out devils by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you.” (Matthew 12: 28).

Compare the same statement by another Gospel writer.

“But if I (Jesus) by the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.” (Luke 11: 20).

You do not have to be a Bible scholar to understand that the expressions:

- (a) “finger of God”
- b) “Spirit of God” and
- c) “Holy Ghost” is all synonymous phrases.

So the Holy Ghost was also helping Jesus (pbuh) in his ministry. The Holy Ghost was also helping his disciples on their missions of preaching and healing. If there is still any doubt in your minds about the working of the Holy Ghost, then please read:

“... as my Father hath sent me, even I send you (the disciples of Jesus), And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, “receive ye the Holy Ghost.” (John 20: 21-22).

This was surely no empty promise. The disciple must have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. So if the “Holy Ghost” was with:

- John the Baptist
- Elizabeth,
- Zachariah,
- Simeon,
- Jesus and
- The disciple of Jesus, then all this makes nonsense of the saying that *“if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you”*.

Therefore the comforter is not the Holy Ghost!

OWN FAMILY THOUGHT HIM MAD

If Jesus (pbuh) would have been Japanese instead of a Jew, he would happily have committed that honourable “Harakiri” (suicide) sadly, he was the most unfortunate of God’s messengers. His family disbelieved him for neither did his (Jesus) brethren believe in him (John 7: 5). In fact they went to the extent of wanting to apprehend him, believing that he was mad.

“And when his relatives heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him (Jesus); for they said, he is beside himself.” (Mark 3: 21).

“He is beside himself” (meaning that he is not right in his head).

JESUS - REJECTED BY HIS NATION

That was the verdict of the close relations of Jesus (pbuh). What then was the response of his own nation, the Jews, after all his beautiful preaching and mighty miracle workings?

His disciple puts it very mildly: *“he came unto his own (the Jews) and his own received him (Jesus) not.”* (John 1: 11).

Actually “his own” mocked him, scorned him and vehemently rejected him, to the extent of making an attempt to crucify him.

Despite two thousand years of Christian persecution and pogroms, and now their overweening love and infatuation for them, so as to slave their own conscience, the Jews as a people and as a whole can never accept Jesus as their Saviour, their deliverer, their God, simply because of their one sound judgement.

“THAT NO JEW CAN EVER ACCEPT ANOTHER JEW AS A GOD”!

It is only in Islam that the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims can find accommodation – all believing in Jesus Christ (pbuh) for what he really was - one of the mightiest messengers of God; and not as God or His son!

DISCIPLES DESERTED HIM

His immediate disciples were always misunderstanding him and his work: wanting him to call down fire from heaven; wanting him to declare himself king of the Jews; wanting to sit on his right hand and on his left hand in his kingdom; wanting him to show them the Father, to make God visible to their bodily eyes, wanting him to do, and wanting to do themselves, anything and everything that was incompatible with his great plan. This was how they treated him until the end. When that came, they all forsook him, and fled.

It was most unfortunate that Jesus Christ (pbuh) had no real choice in selecting his disciples; they let him down as no other group of devotees had ever let down their prophet before. It was no fault of the master.

He bewailed his plight: *“The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh (clay) is weak”* (Matthew 26: 41). Truly, this is not the clay out of which a new Adam could be made. He passes on that responsibility to his successor, whom he calls here- *“The spirit of truth”* i.e., the prophet of truth, the prophet of righteousness!

“SPIRIT” AND “PROPHET” SYNONYMOUS

“Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16: 13).

It has already been established that, biblically, the word “Spirit” is used synonymously for “prophet” by the same author in (1 John 4: 1).

Hence *the “spirit of truth”* would be the prophet of truth; a prophet in whom truth is personified. He had walked through life so honourably and industriously that he had won for himself even from his pagan fellow countrymen the noble designation of *As-Saadiq* (the truthful one) and *Al-Amin*, “the honest”, “the upright”, “the Trustworthy”, the man of faith who never broke his word. His life, his personality, his teachings are the embodiment of truth (*Al-Amin*) the spirit of truth!

Historically, morally and prophetically, Muhammad (pbuh) the Seal messenger of God, “the spirit of truth”, is the only one to guide mankind into all truth. Your further inquiries, comments and criticisms are welcome. Don’t just sit there, for the sake of God, act now! *Insha-Allah*

RESURRECTION OR RESUSCITATION

The medical story of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion is simple. After a disturbed night at Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested, roughed up, detained, and arranged for ill-defined offences against the Mosaic code before a hostile tribunal, the Sanhedrin.

(1) He was judged to merit death and for this reason was delivered (ineptly if his death was wanted before sunset of Friday.

(2) To Pontius Pilate, the Roman Paraefectus Pilate perceived that the Sanhedrin had acted “out of envy” and according to Luke, consulted Herod.

Endeavouring to avoid condemning Jesus, Pilate called upon the crowd which had assembled, with the inevitable result,

(3) That Jesus' death was called for, like all condemned persons, Jesus was flogged, each of four or five braided things of leather bound with lead balls and pieces of sheep bone causing lacerations equivalent to a third or fourth-degree burn. The number of strokes is not known.

(4) Jesus was taken to the Praetorium to fill the role, customarily permitted once a year, of plaything for the troops. To crowd battalion (600 men) into a confined space would itself lead to jocular ribaldry. Jesus was hit on the head with a reed (Greek Kalamos).

(5) But this may have been a substantial weapon intended, by provincially recruited troops.

(6) To limitate a sceptre. The record of what happened in the absence of witnesses is deficient, though brutality was probably less than with Roman soldiers.

The onset of shock could not be long delayed. Indeed, the intense pain would cause pooling of blood in the vascular bed and vagal stimulation would result in bradycardia. The blood pressure and pulse pressure would be low, and some loss of blood would result from the wounds on his back. Physiological compensatory processes would be hindered by the abuse Jesus receive in the Praetorium where he was probably kept upright.

Like all condemned persons, Jesus was expected to carry the Patibulum, the cross-piece of the cross, to the place of execution, Golgotha, about 600-700 yards (546- 637 metres) from the Praetorium.

(7) If made of hardwood 7 ft (2.1 m) x 6 in (15 cm) x 4 in (10 cm). It would weigh about 40 lb (18 kg). Jesus was too weak to do this. Jesus forearms just above the wrists were nailed to the Patibulum while it was lying on the ground (injury to the median nerve seems not to have occurred; then he and the Patibulum were raised to complete the cross when the Patibulum was inserted into a tenon on the stipes, the vertical member of the cross. His buttocks

rested on a sedile projecting from the stipes. His knees were twisted sideways so that the ankles could not be nailed between the tibia and the Achilles tendon.

(8) His head would now be about 18 in (45 cm) above those of the bystanders so that, if sustainable, conversation would be possible.

Jesus was crucified on a Friday, some hours later (traditionally three) an eclipse of the sun occurred, and three hours after this Jesus gave a cry which has been variously interpreted. The bystanders were in no doubt that he had died. Death from crucifixion usually took from three to four days from prolonged and agonizing inability to breathe against gravity.

(9) Pilate, whom we may assume to have had a great deal of experience, caused enquires to be made to determine whether Jesus was dead before allowing him to be taken down. Considering the distance from Golgotha to Pilate's palace, one to two hours are likely to have been needed to obtain permission to remove him. A major gap in the story is that no account of the removal from the cross is given. Of the four Gospels, only that according to St. John.

(10) Records the incident of the spear thrust into Jesus' side and the emission of blood and water.

(11) If indeed it took place (because of the Lazarus story).

(12) And for other reasons,

(13 & 14) John's medical credibility to open to doubt, it is likely to have been no more than the picking of a bleb (occasioned) by the flogging, by a soldier idling away time.

(15) Even though Origen (AD 185-254) believed that Jesus was dead when the blood and water were emitted, he pointed out that corpses do not bleed.

No attempt was made to postulate the cause of Jesus' death until 1847 when Stroud

(16), after considering sheer exhaustion, believed that death was due to a ruptured heart. At the same time Stroud sympathetically discussed whether Jesus dismissed his own spirit. In 1887, Risdon Bennet and Rendle Short

(18 & 19) both believed that Jesus suffered from dilation of the stomach as a result of shock which, in Cameroun view, was fatal.

Primrose (20) suggested that Jesus did not die on the cross and that, 'Somatic activities having been maintained at a very low level', after apparent death he recovered when placed in the tomb intended for Joseph of Arimathea.

HYPOTHESIS: All condemned persons were flogged but they were not so weakened as to be unable to carry the Patibulum. The strong presumption is that the abuse Jesus received at the Praetorium rendered him unable to carry out a task which other condemned persons were able to perform. This additional abuse, including the blow to the head, accounted for his early collapse on the cross. At his crucifixion, Jesus was in the shock and hypertensive, and lost consciousness because of diminished blood supply to the brain. His ashen skin and immobility were mistaken for death and there is no doubt that the bystanders believed he was dead. To cry (and there is little agreement about what may have been said) may not have been any more than a loud expiration preceding syncope. Oxygen supply to the brain remained minimal, but above a critical level, until the circulation was restored when he was taken down from the cross and laid on the ground. Chill during the eclipse of the sun helped to maintain the blood pressure.

As Jesus showed signs of life he was not placed in a tomb (which may have been the intention to avoid burial rites on the Sabbath) but taken away and tended. Jesus later appearances, whether real or supposed are not compelling evidence for or against resurrection or resuscitation. With the doubtful exception of the Ascension, no one saw (visualised) him. In the hours, days and weeks following Jesus supposed death, the disciples and the women must have been under intense psychological pressure, far beyond their capacity to cope with emotionally individual and corporate perceptions, but not visualisations, were to be expected.

His followers underwent a transmarine inhibition, a state of activity of the brain in which hysterical suggestibility (or alternatively counter-suggestibility) frequently occurs. Battle fatigue or brain-washing are analogous.

The abuse meted out to Jesus in the Praetorium led to his collapse and early removal from the cross, and to resuscitation. Individual and corporate suggestibility among the disciples and the women explains the reports of subsequent appearances.

This hypothesis accepts the historical event surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus but explains what happened in the light of modern knowledge. Faith does not require the abandonment of thought or the assent to concepts not scientifically acceptable. The church will be stronger if it accommodates proven knowledge within its creeds. If it does not, all that is left is blind belief, far beyond the credulity of most people.

JESUS TRAVELS TO INDIA

Jesus escaped death on the cross and went into hiding for fear of his enemies. At the time of his departure from his disciples at Mount of Olives, Jesus was very sad: *“His soul was greatly moved, and his heart was filled with sadness for he knew that this would be his last walk”* (in Jerusalem).

In his post crucifixion period, Jesus was helped by his well-wishers and secret disciples in the Essence Brotherhood and possibly by some of his known disciples in secret. He probably lived with the isolated Essence community on the shore of the Dead Sea.

After an unspecified period of stay in Palestine Jesus decided to leave his homeland and immigrate to Afghanistan and Northern India in search of the “lost sheep” and to bring them into his fold as he had despaired of the Jews in Palestine. God, the Gracious, the Merciful, must have guided Jesus on his journey and mission. He was helped by his friends in undertaking this long and arduous journey. He was probably accompanied by his mother Mary and St-Thomas.

From Persia Jesus travelled to Afghanistan probably passing through Herat which lies near the Western border of Afghanistan. As the Lost Tribes of

Israel, the Afghans, were settle there, he might have stayed there for many years and preached of these tribes. Apparently he made his journey to India in stages lasting for many years.

Searching for Jesus in Afghanistan we find that at Ghazni (Western Afghanistan) and at Jalalabad (Southeast Afghanistan) there were two platforms which bear the name **YUZ ASAF** because he sat and preached there. One of the kings of Afghanistan appointed a caretaker for this “Ziarat” (a sacred placed) at Jalalabad and also made a grant for its upkeep.

JESUS AND THE LOST TEN TRIBES

As these lost ten tribes had not returned by the time of Jesus, he spoke of them as “*the lost sheep of the house of Israel*” and as “*the children of God who are scattered abroad*” and as “*other sheep*”. Thus we read in the Gospels: “*I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” (Matthew 15: 24).

“*But to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.*” (John 11:52).

“*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd*”. (John 10: 16)

In these quotations he alludes to his future journey to the East, in the post crucifixion period, in search of these lost tribes of Israel and to preach them. Jesus in post crucifixion period left Palestine and travelled eastwards India and eventually settled in Kashmir for the reason that most inhabitants in Afghanistan and Kashmir were Israelites, descendents of lost tribes.

CONCLUSION

The “resurrection” of Jesus, his teachings, his life throughout is a live testimonial that God has saved him from the cross, made his life blessed with his sacred mission. Most of all, his teachings are clear testimonials that his natural successor is none other than the Seal of all prophets Muhammad (pbuh), the universal prophet, and all other messiahs who shall come in his image till the day of Judgement in the Muhammadan Ummah (Community).