

# ***Jesus: Eesa***

(Peace be upon him)

***- The Islamic  
Perspective***

# **JESUS IN ISLAM**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus (peace be upon him) is respected and revered by at least half of the population of the earth – including Christians and Muslims. The major difference that lies between Christianity and Islam is about the status of this great personality.

While the Christian position on Jesus is quite well known, many are not aware of what the Islamic view about him is.

This booklet aims to present the Islamic position of Jesus.

## **A WORD ON THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION**

All the information that is being presented in this booklet is from the Qur'aan. Of all the books in the world, the Qur'aan is the only one that passes the tests of authenticity, accuracy, and proper preservation since its revelation 1400 years ago. Anyone, objectively trying to ascertain the authenticity of this great book, will be left in no doubt, after looking at the overwhelming evidence that is available, that this is a revealed book preserved in its original form(a promise from God Almighty). In addition to that, it is the only book that has been memorised by millions of humans. Thus, if all the books including the holy books are destroyed tomorrow, only one book can be reproduced in its original form and that book will be the Qur'aan. The Qur'aan contains several scientific and historical facts that have not been recorded in any other book claimed to be from God. These facts have only recently been verified with the aid of advanced equipment, technology, and expertise but were stated in the Qur'aan more than 14 centuries ago. The miracles contained in the Qur'aan themselves are sufficient to prove that this book is from none other than God.

Muslims are so confident about the Qur'aan being the word of God, that they are willing to reject Islam if it can be proved

otherwise. Certainly, God does not make mistakes and His book cannot contain mistakes

## JESUS

Jesus – son of Maryam (Mary) was of a noble birth. His mother was a virgin and this led many to falsely claim that his father was God himself and later some of these people claimed him to be a part of God Himself (trinity), and then they claimed that he was God who had visited earth thus Man God.

The story of Jesus is tied to his mother due to him being born to a virgin. Thus, before we begin his story, let us begin with the story of Maryam (Mary) – the mother of Eesa (Jesus).

## MARYAM'S (MARY'S) BIRTH

Her father was Imraan, an eminent scholar of the Bani Israeel (Israelites). Because Mary's mother, Hannah, did not have children for many years, she made a *nadhrah* (vow) that if she is blessed with a child, she will dedicate him to the service of God and His holy house.

*"When the wife of Imraan (Hannah) said "O my Lord! I have vowed to you what (the child that) is in my womb to be dedicated for your services (free from all worldly work; to serve Your place of worship), so accept this from me. Verily, You are the All Hearer, the All Knowing." (Qur'aan 3:35)*

God accepted her prayer and she conceived Mary. However, Hannah was not expecting a female and thus when Mary was born she turned to God in prayer

*"O my Lord! I have delivered a female child," – and Allah knew better what was delivered, - "and the male is not like the female, and I have named her Mary and I seek refuge with You (Allah) for her and for her offspring from Satan the outcast." (Qur'aan 3:36)*

Mary's father, Imraan, passed away soon after her birth so Hannah was in need of someone to raise her and look after her.

She took her over to the mosque where Imraan was previously the prayer leader and chief and handed her to the priests there. The priests were overjoyed. Everyone wanted to have the responsibility of her guardianship as this was an honourable act. Thus a dispute occurred amongst them. To settle this, they drew lots

*"When they cast lots with their pens as to which of them should be charged with the care of Mary." (Qur'aan 3:44)*

Prophet Zakariya (Zachariah), the father of Yahya (John the Baptist) became her keeper.

*"So her Lord accepted her with goodly acceptance. He made her grow in a good manner and put her under the care of Zakariya." (Qur'aan 3:37)*

Mary remained in Prophet Zakariya's care and he assigned a place for her in the mosque at Jerusalem (Masjid Aqsa). No one was to enter this place but her. Here, she used to worship Allah to such an extent that the Bani Israel (Israelites) took her to be a model of piety and virtue. She was known for her noble ways and distinguished traits.

While Zakariya was caring for her, he observed a strange thing. Mary always had a constant supply of food. What was more surprising was that he would find winter fruits with her in summer and summer fruits with her in winter and this could not be found anywhere in the market.

*"Everytime he (Zakariya) entered her mihraab (private praying place or room) to visit her, he found her supplied with sustenance." (Qur'aan 3:37)*

So one day he asked her

*"He said "O Mary! From where have you got this?" (Qur'aan 3:37)*

***"She said,** "From God." Verily God provides sustenance to whom He wills without limit." (Qur'aan 3:37)*

Mary was brought up in piety and chastity and was given the glad tidings by the angels of her noble status.

*"O Mary! Verily, Allah has chosen you purified you and chosen you above the women of the aalameen(worlds)" (Qur'aan 3:42)*

### THE GLAD TIDINGS OF JESUS (AS) AND THE NOBLE BIRTH

One day, a man with perfect features suddenly came to her. He was Jibreel (Gabriel). Mary was then 13yrs old. The Qur'aan (in Arabic only) describes this incident in beautiful words.

*"And mention in the book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew in seclusion from her family to a place facing East. She placed a screen (to seclude herself) from them; then We sent to her our Ruh (Jibreel- Gabriel) and he appeared before her in the form of a man. She said: Verily! I seek refuge with the Most Beneficent (Allah) from you, if you do fear him. (Jibreel) said: "I am only a messenger from your Lord (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son. 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. So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a far place (i.e. Bethlehem which is 4-6 miles from Jerusalem). And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said: "Would that I had died before this and had been forgotten and out of sight!" Then (Jesus) cried unto her from below her saying: "Grieve not! Your Lord has provided a water stream under you; And shake the trunk of a palm tree towards you, it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon you. So eat and drink and be glad and if you see any human being say: Verily! I have vowed a fast unto the Most Beneficent (Allah) so I shall not speak to any human being this day." (Qur'aan 19:16-26)*

### ALLAH'S MIRACLE – JESUS SPEAKS IN THE CRADLE

Jesus was born more than 600 years before Prophet Mohammed. Mary carried the child back to Jerusalem. When the people saw her and the child, many ill thoughts ran through them. How could an unmarried woman engage in such a crime? Dismay and confusion found further aground

from the fact that Mary was a noble girl from a pious family. In addition to being a scholar, her father Imraan was the leader of the scholars. The Qur'aan describes the scenes unfolding as she returns with baby Jesus.

*"Then she brought him to her people carrying him. They said: "O Mary! Indeed you have brought a thing unheard and mighty. O sister of Haroon(Aaron)! (Some exegetes say that she was from the progeny of Haroon, brother of Musa while others say that he was her brother at her time or a pious family member during her time) Your father was not a man who used to commit adultery nor your mother was an unchaste woman" So she pointed to him. They said: "How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle." He (Jesus) said: Verily! I am a slave of Allah, he has given me the scripture and made me a Prophet; and He has made me blessed wheresoever I may be, and has enjoined on me prayer and zakaat as long as I live. And dutiful to my mother and made me not arrogant unblest. And salaam (peace) be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive." (Qur'aan 19:27-33)*

There is no better proof of Mary's innocence and chastity than Jesus' response while he was still in the cradle. Several people deviated because of this – some accusing his mother to be an immoral woman and others elevated his status to such an extent that they made him the Son of God and then later they claimed him to be having the same status and position of God Almighty himself. However, God describes their acts as blasphemous.

*"And they say: "The Most Beneficent (Allah) has begotten a son. Indeed you have brought forth a terrible evil thing. Whereby the heavens are almost torn, and the earth is split asunder and the mountains fall in ruins, that they ascribe a son to the Most Beneficent (ArRahmaan – Allah). But it is not suitable that he should beget a son." (Qur'aan 19:87-92)*

## **PROPHETHOOD OF JESUS**

The Qur'aan does not mention when actually the Prophethood of Jesus began. However, some historians have put it at thirty years of age. Jesus performed several miracles. One must not

be misguided by Jesus' ability to perform miracles. A miracle can only be performed by the will and permission of God. Prophets who had preceded him also performed miracles by the leave and permission of God. Many great miracles were also performed by Moses including bringing the dead to life and splitting the sea. The evidence of Jesus' prophethood and messengership are stated in the Qur'aan.

*"And will make him (Jesus) a Messenger to the children of Israel..."*  
**(Qur'aan 3:49)**

*"And (remember) when Jesus, son of Maryam said: "O Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allah unto you" (Qur'aan 61:6)*

*"..The Messiah Eesa (Jesus) son of Mary was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah..." (Qur'aan 4:171)*

### **JESUS' MIRACLES**

As stated earlier, Jesus performed several miracles. The Qur'aan mentions some of them.

*"I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I design for you out of clay, as it were, the figure 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 leave. 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." (Qur'aan 3:49)*

He also foretold of the advent of Mohammed – the final Messenger.

*"..and giving glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad." (Qur'aan 61:6)*

The Prophet Muhammad was so named by his grandfather. However, his mother had named him Ahmad.

## **WAS HE GOD BECAUSE OF THE MIRACLES HE PERFORMED**

Jesus performed several miracles. However, does this imply that he was God who came to earth? Was Moses God as well? What about the other Prophets? There are no doubts that Jesus performed miracles but these miracles were similar to the miracles brought by other Prophets. During the time of Moses, magicians were highly respected and revered. God sent with Moses miracles along the lines of magic but much stronger. As a result of this, the magicians declared their faith when they saw the snake of Moses eating their pieces of ropes that, because of magic, appeared to onlookers as being snakes. Being the experts in their field, the magicians knew that this was beyond magic. Similarly, Jesus brought miracles along medical lines as medical experts were revered in his days. During the time of Mohammed, poets were respected and revered. These people were experts of Arabic Language and they could easily influence people through their poems or speeches. However, when Prophet Mohammed recited the revealed verses of the Qur'aan in Arabic Language, even the poets knew that this was not from a human. This was a miracle – a sign from God Almighty. Thus, it follows that because someone performs miracles, it doesn't mean that he is God.

## **CONSPIRACIES**

The Israelites had deviated from the straight path. Many distortions and fabrications had crept in their teachings. Transgression was a norm. It was in this atmosphere that Jesus started to invite to God but was met with adversity. He encountered afflictions but continued steadfastly arguing with them and exposing their hypocrisy. The priests were furious. Jesus was undermining their way of life and exposing their evil. They met to decide on his fate. They had to do away with him for once and for all. However, God had his own plan. He raised him up to him.

## **NOT CRUCIFIED BUT RAISED**

Jesus was **NOT** crucified. This is Islam's position and God is able to do anything.

*"And they (disbelievers) plotted (to kill Jesus), and Allah planned too. And Allah is the best of planners. And remember when Allah said: "O Eesa! I will take you and raise you to Myself..." (Qur'aan 3:54-55)*

*"And because of their saying (in boast) "we killed Messiah Eesa son of Mary, The messenger of Allah but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Eesa 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 (i.e. Eesa son of Mary). But Allah raised him (Eesa) up (with is body and soul) unto Himself (and he is in the heavens). And Allah is ever All Powerful, all wise." (Qur'aan 4:157-158)*

## **TRUE STATUS OF JESUS**

As far as Islam is concerned, those who claim Jesus to be God or son of God have committed blasphemy. Muslims and Christians agree that Eesa was delivered by a woman, and he ate, slept, drank, rode a donkey, prayed and did things that all humans need to do in order to survive. As rational human beings our minds cannot accept him to be anything other than a normal human except that he was chosen for special favours from God. As mentioned earlier these favours (miracles) were not limited to Jesus. How can we take for God someone who comes out a woman's stomach, eats, sleeps, drinks, rides a donkey or prays? Who was God when Eesa was in his mother's womb? How can God die? And who ruled the world and controlled its affairs in the absence of God? Could God not protect himself against conspiracies? The list of questions does not end. No one has ever been able to explain these clearly. In fact, they say "it is a mystery which remains unsolved." God Almighty is way above that which they attribute to Him. He doesn't need to play mind-boggling games with His servants. The truth of the matter in relation

to Jesus is that he was only a Prophet similar to the Prophets that preceded him. God Almighty Himself addresses this calumny.

*"The Messiah, son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a Siddiqah ( she believed in Allah and His books). **They both used to eat food** (as any other human being, while Allah does not eat). Look how we make the ayat clear to them, yet look how they are deluded away (from the truth). (Qur'aan 5:75)*

### **RETURN OF EESA**

Jesus will return to earth once more. Several evidences for this return can be found in both the Qur'aan as well as the hadeeth.

*"And He (Jesus) shall be a known sign for the coming of the Hour (of Day of Judgement) (Qur'aan 43:61)*

He will come with specific commands from God as follows

*"The Hour will not be established until the son of Mary (i.e. Jesus) descends amongst you as a just ruler;....." (Bukhari)*

### **THEY SAY: THE MOST BENEFICIENT HAS BEGOTTEN A SON**

And they say:

*"The Most Gracious has begotten a son." Indeed you have brought forth (said), a terrible evil thing. Whereby the Heavens are almost torn, and the earth is split asunder, and the mountains fall in ruins, That they ascribe a son to the Most Gracious (Allah), But it is not suitable for the Most Gracious that He should beget a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Gracious (Allah) as a slave. Verily He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting. And everyone of them will come to Him alone on the Day of Resurrection (without any helper. Protector or defender)." (Quraan 19: 8-95)*

## **GOD IN ISLAM**

- Has no wife.
- Has no son.
- Was not born and does not give birth.
- Does not come out of a woman's stomach.
- Does not need a reason to forgive sins of humanity no matter how big they are.
- Does not rest, eat, sleep or drink.
- Does not ride a donkey.

## **EESA IN COMPARISON TO ADAM**

Because Jesus was born of a virgin, it does not mean that he is the Son of God. At least, Jesus had a mother. As for Adam (PBUH), he had neither father nor mother. Allah completed his miracle of the creation through Jesus. He created Adam from no one. He created Eve (Hawwa) from a male and no female and He created Jesus from a female with no male.

*"Verily the likeness of Eesa before Allah is the likeness of Adam. He created him from dust, then (He) said to him; Be! And he was."*  
(Qur'aan 3:59)

## **INVITATION TO JEWS AND CHRISTIANS**

*Say (O Muhammad) "O People of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah (alone), and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah." Then if they turn away, say: "bear witness that we have submitted to him."*  
(Qur'aan 3:64)

Just like God Almighty chose Moses to be His Prophet, He chose Jesus for a similar role and mission. And just as He chose them, He chose Muhammad. All Prophets brought miracles to prove their claims of prophethood. The Qur'aan invites Jews, Christians and the rest of humanity to ponder deeply on these and to submit to the Creator.