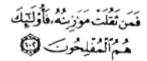


Abdul: A Salaam Alechem!

<u>Sadiq</u>: Alechem A Salaam! Praise be to Allah! Abdul, its been so long since I've seen you!

- A: Yes, praise be to God Almighty! Sadiq, my friend, I have wonderful news! I have received forgiveness of all my sins!
- <u>S</u>: But Abdul, that's not possible. No man can know his sins are forgiven before the great and final Day of Judgment. Not even the prophets had this knowledge. You know what The Holy *Quran* says:



Al-Muminun 23:102, 103

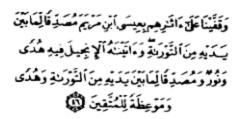
102 Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, They will be successful.

103 But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls;
In Hell will they abide.

- <u>A</u>: But Sadiq, it is true. Listen to the Word of God spoken by Jesus in the *Injil*: **Truly**, **truly**, **I** say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life *Injil* John 5:24.
- S: Abdul, what's wrong with you? That's not the word of *Allah* from The Holy *Quran*!

5

A: It is the Word of God, Sadiq. God gave Jesus the Gospel whose words are Light and Guidance. Even the *Quran* tells us this. Listen to this *Surat*:



Al-Maidah 5: 46

46 And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: therein was guidance and light.

And confirmation of the Torah that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear God.

- A: Sadiq, how long have we prayed to be shown the straight way? I have found it in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have read this Gospel and believed the Word of God that He died to pay for my sins against God. When I believed, I miraculously received forgiveness and peace in my soul!
- <u>S</u>: You can't be serious, Abdul! We have been taught from our childhood that no one can or needs to pay for anyone's sins. It is unworthy of *Allah* to say such a thing! I can see that I must remind you of the words of *Allah* in The Holy *Quran*:

أَلَّا نَزِرُ وَاذِرَهُ مِنْدَالُغَرَىٰ 🚭

An-Najm 53: 38

38 Namely, that no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another.

<u>A</u>: But Jesus Christ had no burden of His own to bear, Sadiq. He alone of all men and of all the prophets was without sin. Where have you ever read of Him confessing His sin? There is not even one *Surat* or one verse in the *Injil* that would show this. Jesus even challenged His enemies to point out even one sin that He had committed. He said this, Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me? *Injil* John 8:46

We all know that if two men are each weighed down with their own heavy burden, neither can help the other. Each one's own load is too great. This is what made Jesus different from all men. Since He had no load of sin of His own to bear, He was able to carry those of all men and die in their place. Listen to the Word of God spoken by Jesus: For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father - *Injil* John 10:17, 18

<u>S</u>: But Abdul, we have always been taught by the *Imams* that Jesus never died! And now you are saying that He not only died but that you believe it!

A: Sadiq, the *Imams* have not spoken the truth to us. Let us consider carefully what the *Quran* and the

Word of God actually say about this important truth.

وَقُوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَنَلْنَا ٱلْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ٱبْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ ٱلْمَهُ وَمَا قَنَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَيْكِن شُيْهَ لَمُمْ وَلِنَ ٱلَّذِينَ ٱخْنَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَيْ شَلِّي مِنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْم إِلَّا إِنِّنَامَ ٱلظَّنْ وَمَا قَنَلُوهُ مَعِينًا ۞ بَلَ زَفَعَهُ ٱللَّهُ إِلَيْهُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ۞

An-Nisaa 4: 157, 158

157 That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of God"; But they killed him not, nor crucified him. Only a likeness of that was shown to them. And those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge. But only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:

158 Nay, God raised him up unto Himself: and God is Exalted in Power, Wise;-

<u>S</u>: Well, Abdul, that proves it. Jesus was not killed or crucified. I do not know what could be clearer.

A: You have seen nothing, my friend. This does not tell us that Jesus was not crucified. It merely refutes the boasting claim that the Jews were the ones responsible for His death. They were not. It only had

that appearance. It looked like that was the case. The truth of the matter is that it was God Himself who gave Jesus command to voluntarily sacrifice His life. It was the eternal plan and purpose of God according to the words of the prophets. We know that God gave the Psalms to David according to *An-Nisaa* 4: 163.

Hear what the prophet David said about Jesus, the Christ of God: They pierced My hands and feet. I can count all My bones - Zabur Psalm 22:16-17. The prophet Isaiah spoke similar words about Christ, the Servant of God. But He was pierced through for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him - Isaiah 53:5, 6.

Sadiq, the *Injil* clearly informs us that the death of Jesus was more than an evil act at the hands of wicked men. No, it was the eternal purpose of God to provide for the salvation of all men. The Word of God says this: Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power - *Injil* Acts 2:22-24. Sadiq, this is the truth about Jesus' death and resurrection

<u>S</u>: But even if he did die as you say, how could you think that his so-called sacrifice could ever cause *Allah*

to forgive sins? It is unworthy to even think such a thing of *Allah*. Praise be to Him! The Holy *Quran* is certain that proclaiming the Name of *Allah* over suitable food is the only sacrifice he accepts.

<u>A</u>: Please, my friend, let me explain from the words of The BOOK given to Moses, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Jesus.

The servant of God, Adam, became guilty because of his sin against God. His tried to cover the shame of his sin by his own efforts. The Word of God says he sewed fig leaves together and made coverings - *Torah* Genesis 3:7.

God was not satisfied with his attempts to cover his guilt and shame due to his sin. The Lord Himself provided coverings which met with His approval. Here is what He did. The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them - *Torah* Genesis 3:21.

God rejected Adam's own attempts to cover his sin and provided for him a covering which He accepted. The skins were obtained from slain animals.

God Himself shed their blood that Adam's guilt of sin might be covered.

Sadiq, what type of sacrifices does God Himself actually accept? God's servant, Abel, and his brother, Cain, give us the answer.

Both brought their sacrifices to God. Abel's was pleasing while Cain's was rejected. Abel brought the sacrifice of a lamb whose blood was shed while Cain brought only suitable food. This is how the Word of God says it: The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor. Then the Lord said to Cain, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" - Torah Genesis 4:4-6.

Cain's sacrifice was suitable food over which the name of God was proclaimed, but it was rejected by the Lord. God only accepts what He Himself has shown us from the beginning: the shedding of blood to cover the guilt of our sinfulness.

Our father, *Ibrahim*, was directed by God to offer up his son as a sacrifice to the Lord. As he and his son walked together to the place of sacrifice, his son asked where the sacrifice was. Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering" - *Torah* Genesis 22:8.

As he was about to slay his son, the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham! Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.

Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horn; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son" - Torah Genesis 22:11-13.

My friend, this tells us something very important about the nature of true sacrifice to God. The ram was slain in the place of the son. The lamb died instead of the person so that he might be set free from the judgment about to come upon him.

The death of the lamb was accepted by God as a substitute in the place of the one who was condemned to death. The son would not be offered again since the lamb had taken his place.

This judgment would never face him again because God provided for Himself a lamb of sacrifice which was accepted as a substitute in His sight.

Sadiq, even the Quran itself says that this is so.



As-Saffat 37: 107

107 And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice:

Ransom means "to redeem from captivity, slavery, or the like, by paying a price." This is what the Almighty God did to save the son of *Ibrahim* from certain judgment.

Nabi Musa adds to our understanding of the sacrifice that God accepts. God was about to judge the land of Egypt for all of its wickedness. There was only one way of deliverance. The *Torah* says:

They are each one to take a lamb for themselves. Then the whole assembly of the congregation is to kill it at twilight Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the house where they eat the lambs.

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt - Torah Exodus 12: 3, 6,7, 13.

Here, the blood of the sacrifice is what saved them from destruction and the judgment of God. The blood of the lamb was their protection from the wrath of God coming upon the unbelievers. It is when the Lord saw the blood applied to where they lived that they were saved.

Sadiq, all of these things were instructing us about the sacrifice that God accepts. They were preparing the way for the coming of the Lord's final

sacrifice, the one that forgives sins once and for all.

This final great sacrifice is spoken of in much detail by Nabi Isaiah:

Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Who has believed our message?

He was despised and forsaken of men. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried;

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter.

By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering. He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by his knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.

Therefore, I will divide Him a portion with the great, because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors - *Nabi* Isaiah 52:13, 53:1, 3-12.

These wonderful Words of God spoken by *Nabi* Isaiah about the Servant of the Lord tell us many things about God's great and final sacrifice for sin.

It shows that it was the purpose of God Himself that His Servant should become a sacrifice for sin. This Servant was pierced for our iniquities. He was like a lamb sacrificed to bear the sins of others though He Himself had done no wrong.

Sadiq, who was this Servant? How could a Servant of God become a sacrifice to forgive sins? The Word of God through His Prophet, John, answers these questions.

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" - Injil John 1:29.

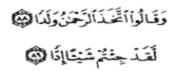
Jesus was the prophesied Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world by the sacrifice of Himself. Jesus is the great Servant of the Lord prophesied by the Word of God who bore the sins of men that they might be forgiven. All the sacrifices from the very beginning have been leading up to this great ransom of Jesus Christ. That, my friend, is the true meaning of sacrifice in the Word of God.

- <u>S</u>: Abdul, I've never heard such a clear explanation before. It truly makes perfect sense. But are you saying that you have become a Christian?
- A: Yes, I am now a follower of Jesus Christ. I have received the wonderful promise of God's Word and He has given me eternal life according to His

promise in the Injil:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life - *Injil* John 3:16.

<u>S</u>: But Abdul, surely you don't believe that *Nabi Isa* is the son of *Allah*! That is unforgivable blasphemy! The Holy *Quran* forbids this!



Maryam 19: 88, 89

88 They say: "The Most Gracious has betaken a son!"

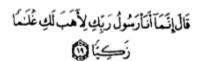
89 Indeed ye have put forth a thing most monstrous!

<u>A</u>: It is true. God cannot beget as a man begets. Any who think so are guilty of horrible blasphemy. I do not believe that at all, Sadiq. I do, however, believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Even the *Quran* says so.

S: It's a lie! No *Imam* has ever taught us that! How can you be so deceived! You're saying some very dangerous things, Abdul! First you say that he is holy and without sin and now you are saying that he is son of *Allah*!

A: Sadiq, I fear God and believe His Holy Word. I

said that even *Quran* calls Jesus the Son of God. It is so. The *Imams* have not told us the truth. Hear the words of *Malaika Jubril* himself:



Maryam 19: 19

19 He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord (To announce) to thee the gift of a pure son."

Gabriel himself called Jesus a holy Son. We know very well that Jesus had no human father. Sadiq, whose Son is He? Who is His Father, if not God?

<u>S</u>: Abdul, I've never heard these things before. I don't know quite what to think. You said that you do not believe that *Nabi Isa* was begotten as a man begets. So how then did he become a son?

<u>A</u>: *Malaika Jubril* gives us the answer to your question in the Word of God:

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God" -Injil Luke 1:35.

It was a miracle from God, not in any way something physical.

S: It was Malaika Jubril himself who said this. It cannot be denied, Nabi Isa is son of Allah. But what

does this mean? Why is he called so? Abdul, I don't understand.

<u>A</u>: When we speak about a son we say that he is the very image of his father. He has the authority and right to represent his father and speak on his behalf.

His word is the same as hearing that of his father. To see the son is to see the father. He is the heir of all that his father has. To dishonor the son is to dishonor his father.

The son stands in a unique relationship to his father which no one else shares. A son is much more than merely a servant sent to do the will of his master.

This is what is meant by calling Jesus the Son of God. He is unique. No one else is like Him in relationship to God. Here is how the *Injil* says it:

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.

After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father"? And again, "I will be His Father and He will be My Son"? And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says, "Let all God's angels worship Him" - *Injil* Hebrews 1:1-6

<u>S</u>: Abdul, have you gone mad? You've not become one of the *Kafara*, a worshipper of three gods, have you? You know what The Holy *Quran* says:

لَقَدَ حَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوٓ أَإِنَ اللَّهُ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاعَةُ وَمَامِنَ إِلَهِ إِلَّا إِلَهُ وَحِدُّ وَإِن لَّهُ مَانتَهُواعَمًا يَعُولُونَ لَيَمِسَّنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْمِنْهُمَ عَذَابُ أَلِيدُ

Al-Maidah 5: 73

73 They disbelieve who say: Allah is one of three (In a Trinity:) for there is no god except One God.

If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous chastisement will befall the disbelievers among them.

 \underline{A} : No, Sadiq, I do not worship three gods. I believe the Word of God. God is One. With this all the Scriptures agree.

We are told this in the *Torah*: Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is One! - *Torah* Deuteronomy 6:4. The words of the Prophets say the same: I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God - *Nabi* Isaiah 45-5.

Jesus, in the *Injil*, speaks this same truth: Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" *Injil* Mark 12:29, 30.

My good friend, be assured that I worship the

One true and living God and none other. Yet we will all admit that there are great and deep mysteries about God that none of us can fully understand.

There are even things about ourselves which we know to be true but cannot fully explain. And we are nothing more than creatures of dust made by the mighty power of God!

Let me try and illustrate what I mean. Sadiq, when you speak, your word communicates yourself; your very spirit within you. It reveals all that you are and cannot be separated from who you are. You, your word, and your spirit are one.

You are not three, as if there were you, your word, and your spirit as separate beings. No, you are one. There are not three Sadiqs.

Yet a mere body without your spirit is not you. Neither could your spirit exist without your body. But even having a body and spirit could never be an adequate expression of who you are without your word.

All three are needed, yet you are not three, but one. Your word is revealed through the body which expresses your unseen spirit within. All is harmonious in the living unity that is you.

This is what is meant by Trinity. Not three gods, but One: God, His Word, and His Spirit. Jesus is the Word of God, the full expression of the invisible God.

Jesus Christ, the Word, became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, He has explained Him - *Injil* John 1:14, 18.

My friend, God is far greater, more exalted, and eternally other than man. If we, mere creatures of dust, have complex mysteries about our own being, how much more so the One true and living God?

It should not surprise us if there are things too wonderful about His majestic nature for our complete understanding.

<u>S</u>: Abdul, the things you are saying are so very new to my ears but I must confess they make perfect sense. I am beginning to understand. I think you are saying that *Nabi Isa* is somehow different than other Prophets.

A: Yes, Sadiq, it's true. Jesus Christ is altogether different than any other. Have you ever watched the crescent moon travel across the month's night sky? It begins in a small way and gradually increases its light to its full brightness.

Then it decreases in its influence and passes away. But another moon arises in its place so that this darkened world is not left without light.

Sadiq, this is how the prophets are. They are like the moon. Each one arises in his turn and sheds the light from God upon this darkened world for a time.

The moon has no light of its own but only reflects that of the sun. It is the same with the prophets. No prophet has light in himself. He merely reflects the light he has received from God.

Light from the moon brings no life or warmth. It merely helps those in the darkened world to see their way until the light of day dawns. No prophet of God can bring life to sinful men. He can only shine in a small way for a time and then pass away.

Jesus Christ is not like that at all. Sadiq, Jesus is the Light of the world. The sun never becomes old or wears out. It shines upon every man in every land and shall never die.

When the sun has arisen, no man needs the lesser light of the moon any longer. He, as the Light,

brings life. Jesus Himself said this, I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of Life - *Injil* John 8:12.

Every other prophet was sent to point the way to God. But Jesus is more than merely showing us the right way. He is the Way. This is what He says, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to the Father except by Me - Injil John 14:6.

All men, like Adam who was fashioned from clay, are earthy and of the earth. Jesus is called, "He who descended." Jesus says this, No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven: The Son of Man - *Injil* John 3:13.

Only one who comes down from above, who is pure like the sun or rain, can bring help from above. He alone, from above, can reach down to save those struggling in the mire of sin below. Even the greatest of the Prophets could not deliver their fellows, for they too were of the earth.

Sadiq, we must all face the great enemy, death. All of the Prophets died and so must you and I. Jesus alone has conquered death. He alone is the Living One among all the Prophets. Listen to His own words, I am the Living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore - *Injil* Revelation 1:18. Also, I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies - *Injil* John 11:25.

Only Jesus can save from death and sin. He is alive and able to deliver us. There is none like Him.

S: Abdul, I've never heard these things from the *Imams*, but it is clear and wonderful. But how do you know it is true? Haven't we been told that the *Torah* and *Injil* have been corrupted by the *Kafara*?

A: Yes, we've been told so, but the *Imams* have not told us the truth. It is not possible for any sinful man to change the Word of God. God is greater than any man and His Word is everlasting. Listen to the Word of God, Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven - Zabur Psalm 119:89.

Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

"He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him" - Injil John 7:16-18.

- <u>S</u>: Abdul, I can now see that what you say is correct. We've not been told the truth all this while. But how did you come to know and believe these things?
- <u>A</u>: By prayerfully reading the *Injil*, my friend. In it I learned that all my sins could be forgiven in this life. I now have assurance of reaching heaven after death. Jesus is **the Way, and the Truth, and the Life,** no one can come to God except by Him.

Remember what He said, He who hears My Word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life - *Injil* John 5:24.

Sadiq, will you confess that Jesus is the Son of God and receive Him in order to have your sins washed away?

 \underline{S} : It's a difficult decision, Abdul. I do believe this wonderful message from the Word of God. It's true, there is no one like Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There is no other way for my sins to be forgiven, but I'm afraid what will happen to me if I do confess Him.

My family may disown me. I may not be able to find work. I might even be killed. You must have faced the same things, Abdul.

<u>A</u>: Its true, Sadiq. It is a big decision. But what will happen if you <u>do not</u> believe the message that God gave lesus in the *Injil*?

All of us will die one day. It is far better to die knowing that your sins are forgiven having received eternal life than to cowardly deny the truth in this life and suffer in hell for all eternity.

Jesus said this, Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it - *Injil* Matthew 10:28, 32, 33, 37, 39.

Sadiq, I have chosen to face any suffering now in this life for the sake of the truth in Jesus so that I might be received into glory after I die. We are commanded to hear the *Injil* of Jesus which is our only Light and Guidance.

Please, consider well what Jesus has told us. These are true Words of God. This is what He has spoken:

I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the Word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

For I did not speak from Myself, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me - Injil John 12:46-50.

MY FRIEND, WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?