



# Christmas

## HISTORY & ORIGIN

A MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE

*By Dr. Faruq Post*

Brothers and sisters in Islam...It's that time of year again. The month of mistletoe, decorated pine and evergreen trees in people's living rooms, holiday wreaths hanging from people's front doors, mangers and reindeer pulling a sled with Santa Claus behind it. The Christmas season is upon us. December 25th is a day that many believe was the birth date of Jesus Christ. Let us learn together today about this holiday that many of our neighbors here in the United States of America celebrate and call "Christmas". What are the origins of Christmas? Why do people cut down trees, bring them into their homes and decorate them with ornaments? What is the relationship of Santa Claus to Christmas? When was Jesus really born according to scriptural evidences? What should a Muslim believe and practice during the Christmas season and how should a Muslim behave?





Be informed, brothers and sisters that any religion that claims to be the truth should have evidence for their rituals, celebrations, holidays in order for it to be considered something that is truly and authentically revealed from the Creator of mankind.

1. It should have evidence from the scripture that was revealed from the Creator to that specific Prophet or Messenger.
2. The Prophet or Messenger along with their companions and disciples should practice it and encourage their followers to practice it.
3. The Scriptures of the particular Prophet and Messenger should be free from alterations and changes.





So where does the evidence of Christmas come from? Where did it come from and how did it originate? Does anyone actually know when Jesus Christ was actually born?



Throughout time, Christians have always differed in regards to the real birth date of Jesus, and the scholars of Christianity agree that no one actually knows his exact birth date as well. Actually, the first recorded celebration of Christmas was 336 years after Jesus' ascension to the heavens. It was never celebrated by Jesus himself, nor his disciples living with him, nor any of his family members.

Prior to the era of Jesus, the majority of the Romans and the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea (under Roman influence) inclined to beliefs that were polytheistic. The Romans believed in multiple 'gods' (Jupiter, Juno, Zeus, Mithra, etc...). They were also well versed in astronomy, astrology as well as the study of the movement of the stars, planets, sun, moon and constellations. According to them, the day of December 25th was the day that they believed that the sun reached its farthest point away from earth, and it was the day marking the beginning of the winter solstice.

A day that they coined in Latin ('Natalis Solis Invicti'). They celebrated a festival that marked the beginning of this new 'Birth of the Sun' where the days would be longer and the sun would climb higher into the sky.



Many of the Roman pagans celebrated December 25th as the birth of their god of light, named 'Mithra'. In the second century, after Jesus' ascension, Mithraism was more popular in the Roman Empire than Christianity. Many scholars have mentioned that the Romans introduced a new religion that would combine both the old polytheistic beliefs of the ancient Romans, along with some of the beliefs of Christians, hence the introduction of the concept of the Trinity.

So the celebration of the winter solstice on December 25th to recognize the birth of the S-U-N, was eventually changed to the birth of the S-O-N to coincide with what many of the Christians were already believing, hence creating a day that both Polytheists and Christians can celebrate together.

It was also coined as “Mass of Christ”, signifying the ‘hosting’ or ‘death’ of Jesus Christ amongst the Christians.

If we were to open any bible, we will not find any mention as to when Jesus was born, we will not find any mention about Christmas, nor any explicit or specific mention about the Trinity.

It is very important to understand that any religious celebration is a form and part of worship of that specific religion and therefore requires credible evidence, which cannot be found in any of the Christians original scriptures or manuscripts.



We as Muslims are sure that the exact date of Jesus' birth is only known to the ONE who created him, and that is Allah alone, and no one can specify the exact date, month, and day. During that time the majority of people did not have written records of dates of birth as well. We should understand that if the day of Jesus' birth was not specified in any of the revelation that Allah sent to His Prophet's and Messengers, then it must not be something that people should be greatly concerned about.



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**So where does the  
Christmas Tree come  
from? Does it have  
biblical evidence  
amongst the  
Christians?**



Actually, the bible has no specific mention of Christmas, but it does have mention of cutting down trees, bringing them inside one's home and decorating them. If we open the book of Jeremiah in the bible 10:34 it says: **“The customs of the people are worthless and in vain, they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel, they adorn it with silver and gold, they fasten it with a hammer and nails so it will not totter.”**

Many pre-Christian pagans superstitiously believed that the evergreen tree had special powers of protection. In fact, the use of the Christmas trees began in the 17th century in Strasbourg France where it spread there to Germany, Britain and then to the US. Tree worship was a common feature of religions amongst the Teutonic and Scandinavian people of northern Europe before their conversion to Christianity. German settlers brought the Christmas tree custom to American colonies in the 17th century.

So, what about Santa Claus, and gift giving, and kids waiting up on Christmas Eve for Santa to come down the chimney? Where did this come from?



The word Santa Claus appears nowhere in the bible. However, Saint Nicholas as he is known as, was a real person, a bishop, who was born about 330 years after Jesus. According to a legend and myth he was extremely kind and went out at night to distribute presents to the needy. This and all of the other customs related to Christmas are not based upon any scriptural evidences, nor are they rooted in true and authentic beliefs, customs and practices. Someone who really cares about their children should not have their kids waiting up all night for an imaginary figure to come down the chimney to bring them presents. Let's be honest with ourselves and definitely let's be truthful with our children.



## Advice to the Muslims

So, brothers and sisters in Islam, be witnesses of truth upon this earth, stand up for what you believe and are certain is the truth, if you truly believe in the words of Allah in the Quran and the words of your Prophet Muhammad within the Sunnah. Don't be afraid to share the true story of Jesus and what Allah tells us about him. Furthermore, do not become amazed or inspired by the traditions and customs of the people of other faiths, traditions and religious practices. Allah did not command us, nor does He love for us to follow the practices, traditions and customs of people of other faiths.

Respected brothers and sisters the holidays and religious festivals of the Christians and especially Christmas are directly related to a major form of disbelief; the horrendous belief that Allah has a son. Some of us may not realize the severity of this statement, some of us may not understand the atrociousness of this belief...but indeed our Lord knows and understands better than us...listen to what He said about those who claim He has a son.

(وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا- لَقَدْ جِئْتُمْ شَيْئًا إِدًّا (89) تَكَادُ السَّمَاوَاتُ  
يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ وَتَنْشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُّ الْجِبَالُ هَدًّا (90) أَنْ دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدًا  
(91) وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِلرَّحْمَنِ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا (92) إِنْ كُلُّ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ  
وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِي الرَّحْمَنِ عَبْدًا)

And the Christians say that Allah the Most Merciful has taken a son! They have indeed claimed an atrocious thing! The heavens almost ruptures and the earth almost split in half and the mountains collapse in devastation from such a statement.

They say Allah has taken a son.... (Maryam:89-93)

So, if the heavens are ready to explode, and the earth ready to split in half and the mountains ready to collapse from such a terrible and horrendous statement... Why don't our hearts, minds, bodies, and tongues shake when we see people or hear people claim that Allah has a son, that Allah allowed his son to die on the cross for the sins of humanity. Why don't our hearts, minds and souls rupture when we hear and witness such atrocious beliefs? Why are we so quick to congratulate people with merry Christmas and the likes? Why are we so hasty in sending Christmas cards, hosting Christmas dinners and parties and celebrations when we are people of Tawheed?

Respected brothers and sisters, do mountains, the heavens above us and the earth beneath us have stronger intellects than us, are they showing more signs of disapproval than human beings whom Allah has favored over all other creatures???

A true believer should have some غيرة "gheerah" (jealousy) about his religion, some dignity, some honor in regards to the message of Tawheed, the message of Islamic monotheism... the true message of Jesus and all the rest of Allah's Prophets and Messengers...

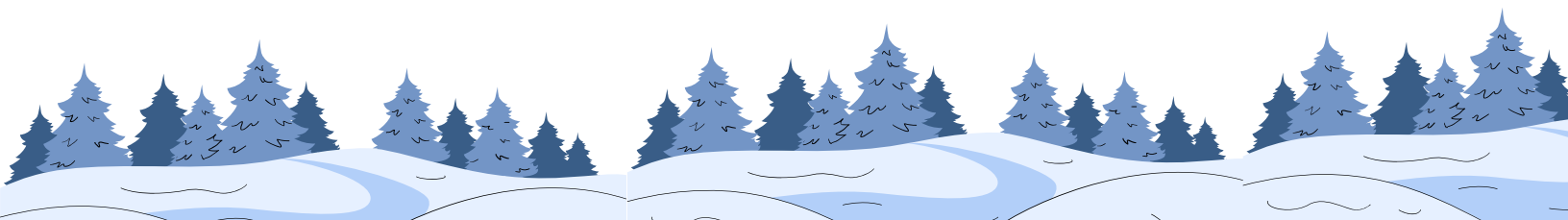
It is utterly disappointing that these inanimate objects (mountains, heavens and earth) are affected and upset about people claiming that Allah has a son...but we aren't affected at all...have our hearts become harder than stones, harder than that which mountains are made of?

Do these inanimate objects care more about Islamic monotheism and defending the truth more than us? If this is the case then we really need to learn our religion, learn about our beliefs, our lord and the true message of His Prophets, such as Abraham, Jesus and Muhammad, and we really need to ask Allah to guide us and keep us firm...



Brothers and sisters in Islam, may Allah guide us and protect us and our families from being led astray and negatively affected by the signs, symbols and customs of those who do not respect nor honor their Creator.

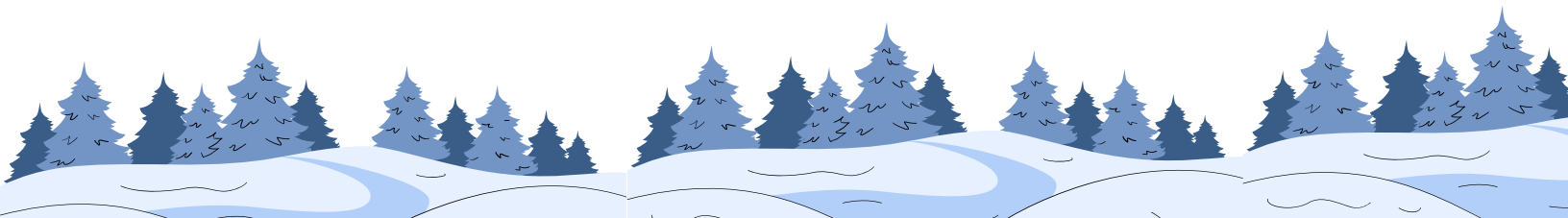
Our discussion today is about Christmas, its origins, and the beliefs and practices related to it. One of the major beliefs related to Christmas is that Jesus is the son of Allah. Our Lord-Allah-actually told us in the Quran that there will be people who will emerge and claim that Jesus is Allah's son, and Jesus himself will deny that claim, Allah tells us:



13  
(وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَحْيَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ ءَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي إِلهَيْنِ  
مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالَ سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقٍّ إِنْ كُنْتُ  
قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَْلَمُ  
الْغُيُوبِ)

And beware when Allah will say: “O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people: Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah?” Jesus will reply: “Exalted are you O Lord! It was not for me to say that which I have no right to say. If I did say it, you would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within you. Indeed, it is You who are the Knower of the unseen.”  
(Al Ma'idah:116)

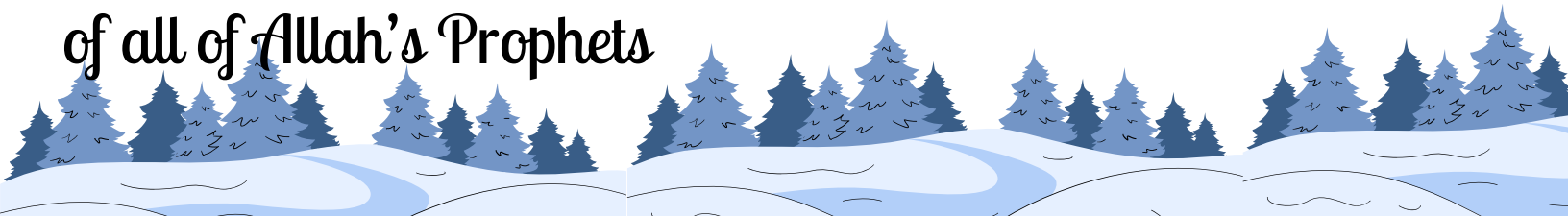
We find that Allah mentioned and recorded what Jesus actually told his disciples and companions in the next verse:



(مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنْ أَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ وَكُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ  
شَهِيدًا مَا دُمْتُ فِيهِمْ فَلَمَّا تَوَفَّيْتَنِي كُنْتَ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنْتَ عَلَى  
كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ)

**“I did not tell them except what ‘You commanded me to’  
say: to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was  
a witness over them as long as I was with them; but when  
you raised me to the heavens, ‘You were the Observer over  
’them, and ‘You are over all things, A Witness  
(Al Ma’idah:117)**

Brothers and sisters, as dedicated followers of the Prophet Muhammad, and lovers of Jesus and all Prophets and Messengers; it is our duty to be witnesses for and against mankind. Allah has chosen the ummah of Muhammad to be the ‘Best Ummah for mankind’ خير أمة أخرجت للناس and ‘witnesses unto mankind’ شهداء على الناس so in understanding this responsibility we must remind the people of the truth, the true message of Jesus and the true message of all of Allah’s Prophets

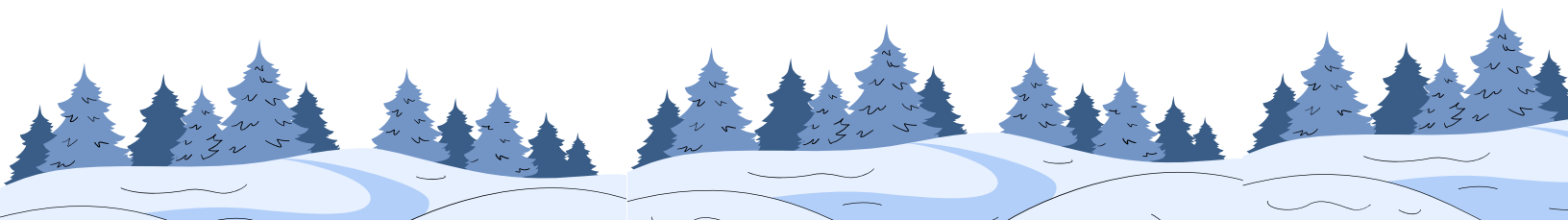




**The Prophet Muhammad narrates to us in a Hadith Qudsi saying:**

قَالَ اللَّهُ: كَذَّبَنِي ابْنُ آدَمَ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ ذَلِكَ، وَشَتَمَنِي، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ ذَلِكَ، فَأَمَّا تَكْذِيبُهُ إِيَّايَ فَرَعَمَ أَنِّي لَا أَقْدِرُ أَنْ أُعِيدَهُ كَمَا كَانَ، وَأَمَّا شَتْمُهُ إِيَّايَ، فَقَوْلُهُ لِي وَلَدٌ، فَسُبْحَانِي أَنْ أَتَّخِذَ صَاحِبَةً أَوْ وَلَدًا.

**"Allah the Most High says: 'Human beings' slander and curse Me and they should not do so. Human beings disbelieve in Me and they should not do so as well. As for their slander and cursing of Me,**



it is them claiming I have a son. As for their disbelief in Me then it is thinking that I will not resurrect him as I created him before." (Saheeh Al Bukhari #4482)

Brothers and sisters in Islam... In this hadith we find our Lord telling us that believing or saying that He has a son is the worst type of slander of Him, the worst type of disrespect of Him, the worst type of falsehood that one could bare witness to, approve or agree with...

So how would Allah feel about those who participate in any type of activities related to the claim that He has taken a son, or congratulate others for engaging in activities that are related to this holiday? Of course, He would be angry, dissatisfied and displeased with them. May Allah help us to do the things that please him and avoid the things that displease Him and anger Him.

Day after day, people disrespect, dishonor and are completely ungrateful towards their Creator. They constantly claim that Allah has a son, while He continuously gives them sustenance, safety and good health:

عَنْ أَبِي مُوسَى الْأَشْعَرِيِّ، قَالَ: قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
 " مَا أَحَدٌ أَصْبَرَ عَلَى أَدَى سَمِعَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ، يَدْعُونَ لَهُ الْوَلَدَ، ثُمَّ  
 يُعَافِيهِمْ وَيَرْزُقُهُمْ "

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "No one is more patient than Allah against the harmful and annoying words He hears (from the people): They ascribe a son to Him, yet He continuously provides them with good health and sustenance."

(Saheeh Al Bukhari #7378)

A true Muslim, who has truly submitted to Allah and understands Islamic monotheism-Tawheed- will never be happy with such celebrations, holidays and festivals, nor would he flatter and appease those celebrating them. So consider this season, this Christmas and the Christmas' to come as an opportunity to share the truth with others, to expound and explain the truth belief in Jesus based upon scriptural evidences...

Christmas is not a time to let our creed and beliefs melt away with the snow.



Christmas, for the Muslims should not be a time to profit off<sup>19</sup> of Christmas decorations, wreaths, Christmas trees, reindeers, mangers and wrapping papers. Christmas is not a time to greet others with a greeting that is approving and condoning their beliefs that Allah has given birth to a son. The message of Jesus and all the other Prophets was to worship Allah alone, the message of Islam. Instead of adorning and decorating Christmas trees with ornaments this year, adorn and decorate yourselves, your family and your children with facts about Christmas, its origins, Jesus Christ and the eloquent words of Islam so that the door of inviting people to the truth is your main objective this holiday season.

Use this time to give dawah and share the true message of Jesus and Muhammad with others... Let people know that real Muslims are against all forms of religious extremism, especially those related to our Creator-Allah-, and remind the Christians to not go to extremes in the religion as Allah tells us:



يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ وَلَا تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ إِنَّمَا  
 الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْقَاهَا إِلَى مَرْيَمَ وَرُوحٌ  
 مِنْهُ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَلَا تَقُولُوا ثَلَاثَةٌ انْتَهُوا خَيْرًا لَّكُمْ إِنَّمَا اللَّهُ إِلَهُ  
 وَاحِدٌ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
 وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا

“O People of the book, don't go to extremes in your religion, and don't speak about Allah without clear evidences. Indeed, Jesus the son of Mary is only a messenger and Allah's word and Rooh that he sent to Mary, and do not say he is part of the trinity. Ceasing from such statements is better for you, indeed there is only one Lord/deity worthy of worship alone and that is Allah. And He is far exalted from ever having a son and He owns everything in the heavens and the earth.”

(An Nisa:171)



## A Muslim's Invitation to People of the Book

A Muslim's invitation to Christians this season should be what Allah tells us in the Quran:

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ  
وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِن  
تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ ٦٤

“Say O People of the Scripture (Bible and Torah) come to a word that is mutual and just between us and you: That we will not worship anyone except Allah alone and not associate partners with Him and not take anyone as lords besides Him. But if they turn away, then say: “We bare witness that we are Muslims (submitting to Allah alone).”

(Ali Imran:64)





Perhaps by you and me-as Muslims- restraining from observing Christmas and the activities associated with it, people may curiously ask 'why don't you celebrate or participate in Christmas or the festivities?' This is the opportunity that should be used to discuss this previous verse and extend the invitation that Allah extended to them.

So, in conclusion brothers and sisters...we learned that saying, believing or condoning that Jesus is the Son of God is religious extremism, impermissible and the activities associated with it and congratulations should be avoided as well.

Dearly respected believers, be witnesses of truth upon this earth, stand up for what you believe, don't be shy, ashamed or afraid to share what our Creator tells us about Himself in the Quran and Sunnah.



Don't be witnesses of falsehood, nor witnesses of slander and cursing of Allah the Highest. As a Muslim there is no need, nor any goodness at all in celebrating any types of religious holidays and celebrations of people of other faiths. Many people of other faiths only want to befriend you and bring you close to try to make you weak in your faith and start doubting your Islam, the true religion of Abraham, Jesus, Muhammad and the rest of Allah's Prophets and Messengers: As Allah tells us, in the Quran:

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ

**The Jews and Christians will never be pleased with you until you follow their religion...(Al Baqarah:120)**

Follow Islam, the complete and perfect religion/way of life, the true religion of Jesus and Muhammad. That has been preserved and protected since the beginning....



No need to follow conjecture, doubts and misconceptions of people who are in doubt about their beliefs and religious practices and cannot produce clear evidences for them as well.

As a Muslim, the Christmas season should not be looked at as a time to celebrate, feast, enjoy gifts and festivities, rather it should be looked at as a time to invite people to Islam, invite people to the true message of Jesus and Muhammad and all the other Prophets and Messengers, which was: Worship the creator alone and not the creation...Seize the opportunity before these days pass away brothers and sisters.... And always remember that true dignity, honor, respect and status is only with practicing Islam correctly as Umar ibn Al Khattab mentioned:





نحن قومٌ أعرّنا الله بالإسلام، فمهما ابتغينا العِزَّةَ بِغَيْرِهِ أذلّنا الله

*“We were once a people who were misguided, then Allah guided us and gave us honor and dignity with Islam, by being true Muslims. So, if we ever try to seek honor and dignity with something other than Islam, then we will never find it and Allah will humiliate us with it.”*

*(Musanaf ibn Abee Shaybah #36114, and others as well with similar wording)*

# *Notes*



# CONTACT US



## *Islamic Ministries and Community Development*

455 W Washington St  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
[www.imacd.org](http://www.imacd.org)  
240-347-3774



## *Islamic Center of Hagerstown*

122 E Washington St  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
[www.myich.org](http://www.myich.org)  
Text: (301)517-9670  
Email: [helpdesk@myich.org](mailto:helpdesk@myich.org)

