

# Islam Fact vs. Fiction

Good Evening ---

First of all I'd like to thank Allah the almighty for giving me the opportunity to meet such wonderful people here ~~today~~ <sup>available</sup> <sup>this evening</sup> at

McDaniel College here in Westminster Maryland, and secondly <sup>I'd like to thank</sup> the organizers of this program for doing such a spectacular job

in hosting me / Friends, colleagues, elders, brothers and sisters in Islam...no one can deny that Islam is very much in the

spotlight today, in the news, on the internet, social media, billboards, magazines and on tv. <sup>and because of this ---</sup> many of us cannot distinguish

between what is the true Islam <sup>of Islam</sup> that real Muslims practice, and what is the hijacked version that the media portrays Muslims

~~practicing throughout the world.~~ <sup>nowadays within our society</sup> Unfortunately, there are many ~~negative~~ <sup>negative</sup> portrayals <sup>by the media</sup> about Islam and the Muslims,

but in spite of that, we find that increasing numbers of people are seeking to find out more about it, such as yourselves. And

more often than not, they are being pleasantly surprised by the fruits of their research, <sup>and which I hope all of you will be surprised and</sup> in fact, ~~more people are embracing~~ <sup>enlightened as</sup>

~~Islam today than they did prior to the tragic incident that~~ <sup>well to distinguish</sup> occurred on September 11, 2001. <sup>what Islam is between</sup> <sup>Fact and Fiction</sup>

Islam is the religion and way of life of about one-fifth of the world's population. Muslims are of diverse nationalities,

<sup>ethnicities,</sup> cultures and races, but their religion teaches that all are <sup>Created</sup> essentially equal and that no distinction should be made

between them on the basis of such superficial differences as

*[Handwritten scribbles and notes in the bottom right corner, including the phrase "well to distinguish what Islam is between Fact and Fiction"]*

race, color, social status, or ethnicity as long as they remain peaceful and law-abiding citizens.

Many don't understand Islam and the practices of the Muslims, and tend to perceive Muslim attitudes as unnecessarily demanding and uncompromising. Misunderstandings are frequently due to unmistakable differences between people's individual concept of religion and that of the Muslims. Islam and the practices of the Muslims can indeed seem strange to a society in which religion no longer plays a major role in everyday life, for the majority of people; but to a dedicated Muslim, Islam is life, Islam is freedom, Islam is liberation, Islam is peace, Islam is sacrifice, and to the Muslim there is no division between the

secular and the sacred, between the religion and everyday life... ne lives his life... working, studying, buying, selling and worshipping the creator and seeking His rewards...

To a Muslim, his religion is what motivates him to take a particular direction in life. To Muslims, religion is not merely a personal issue or something symbolic pertaining to a limited area of one's existence, rather it involves molding a balanced way of life suitable not only to Muslims but to everyone who inclines towards peace, justice and respect for rights. In the hearts of Muslims, their religion remains both a secure refuge, and the most effective motivator for tackling all kinds of challenges, while preserving the distinctive character of the Muslim believer and the pattern of his particular culture. In Islam and to the practicing Muslim, religion is a dynamic system

① - His religion is what motivates him to love what he loves and to hate what he hates for laws for himself - His religion is what motivates him to stand up for the truth, speak out against injustice and transgression and oppression...

hearts

in life

human and dignity

that organizes the progression of life according to basic general principles and flexible rulings that guarantee potential benefits <sup>of all fields of life</sup> from ~~advancements in science and technology as well as new material facilities~~ <sup>and</sup>. Since there is no conflict between Islam and scientific research, every new discovery in the world of matter, energy, time and space only increases the believer in faith and humility towards the creator of the universe-God-who devised, <sup>organized,</sup> projected and systematized such a plan <sup>and beautiful creation</sup> and then assigned to mankind his place and noble role within it. ~~Practicing~~ Muslims believe that God's final revelation contains the cures and solutions for all of the <sup>social ills we're</sup> ~~ills mankind is~~ experiencing today, all we need to do is start learning more about it.---

### So What is Islam as a whole?

Islam is an Arabic word that means submission. This submission is to the creator of the universe, <sup>and one submits</sup> by following his commandments, <sup>and one submits by</sup> following his guidance that he sent to the earth by way of his prophets and messengers. Islam is a complete way of life that governs and provides guidance for all human beings, in all aspects of life-spiritual guidance-intellectual guidance-physical guidance. Islam teaches peace, mercy, forgiveness, justice, morality, respect, honesty and to treat others better, than they treat you. Islam teaches that all people are responsible for themselves and will be held

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accountable for their own deeds, statements, beliefs, actions and behavior, in this lifetime as well as the hereafter...

Islam is the religion whose sources have remained free of human alteration and interference... <sup>for over 1400 years</sup>

~~As the truth of every religion and the proof of its divine origin depends fundamentally on the accuracy with which the original revelation from God was preserved and transmitted to the rest of mankind.~~ omit

Islam's divine revealed scripture is in harmony with established facts of science, clearly bearing the signature of the <sup>magnificent</sup> creator of this universe, <sup>and modern day science is still discovering things to this day that the Quran and the prophet Muhammad said 1400 years ago</sup>

Islam provides answers to the essential fundamental questions which occur to the mind of every intelligent person, ~~those~~ <sup>those</sup> why am I here on this Earth? ~~related to the purpose of creation and life, and concerning a further existence after death.~~ <sup>what's my purpose in life? what's after life?</sup>

Islam is the religion which insists upon worship of the creator alone ----

~~Islam dispenses with all intermediaries between man and God and allows every individual to contact God directly, thus eliminating religious hierarchies and other sources of exploitation which have characterized the history of religions throughout the ages. In Islam no cleric or establishment can come between a person and his Lord.~~ omit

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Islam accommodates the physical, intellectual and spiritual aspects of <sup>the human being</sup> man. Islamic beliefs and practices are natural and appeal to common sense. They present a balanced program of life that fulfills both physical and spiritual needs.

Islam prohibits blind following without knowledge and is based upon evidence and logic. The rational mind is the basis for religious accountability and responsibility. All aspects of Islamic belief are clear, without any obscurity or ambiguity. It contains no tenant that contradicts reason or observable reality, and it calls on people to study and contemplate as a means of strengthening faith.

Islam's religious, moral, economic, political and social ethics are permanent and remain constant. They are governed by a set of unchanging principles which include such universal values as justice, freedom, equality, brotherhood and social responsibility, for individuals as well as communities ...

## So Who are the Muslims?

A Muslim is someone who practices Islam; that is, who willingly submits to the revealed directives of God. Everything in the universe <sup>is</sup> inherently submissive to God, <sup>in other words...</sup> functioning according to the natural laws created by <sup>God</sup> Him. Human beings are <sup>All</sup> physically 'muslim' in the sense that their bodies function according to the genetic program set <sup>and created</sup> by God for the period of time <sup>that God</sup> He has decreed. A Muslim in the religious sense, however,

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is someone who consciously commits<sup>and submits</sup> himself to the worship of God alone, not according to his own inclinations or those of other men, but according to the method conveyed by God through His appointed prophets. Muslims make up approximately 2.1 billion or so of the world population. The country of Indonesia holds the largest Muslim community worldwide. Only 18% of Muslims are Arab. Anyone can be Muslim regardless of their race, ethnicity or nationality. In the US the population projections show the number of Muslims more than doubling over the next two decades, rising from 2.6m in 2010 to 6.2m in 2030.

In order for someone to be considered a Muslim he must believe and practice five main pillars: 1-5 ... mention

Muslims must also believe in six pillars of faith: 1-6 mention

all do they have to  
is adm: + that  
Deity worship  
of worship  
except  
Allah about  
and that  
Muhammed is  
his final  
prophet!

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## What is the Quran?

The Quran was God's final message to humanity, which contains legislations that encompass all spheres of human life. It is applicable to all people at all times and places. It appeals to logic, following clear reasoning and citing evidences from the created universe, from history and from the human soul to establish not only the existence of God but also his uniqueness and absolute perfection, It also contains answers to the questions which naturally occur to the human mind about the

purpose of creation and what occurs after death. It is the primary source of Islamic creed and legislation. It outlines the practical methods of earning the approval of God and obtaining peace and contentment in the permanent existence to come, <sup>the afterlife...</sup> By following its guidance, man can fully experience his human worth and his special position among <sup>other human</sup> ~~created~~ beings.

~~Literally means: 'recited' or 'compiled together'~~ <sup>the Quran</sup> Muslims believe ~~it~~ to be the exact words of Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad, it is the final revelation of a succession of revelations that Allah revealed to his prophets, <sup>in other words</sup> the icing on the cake of the previous divine revelations from God. It was Revealed over a 23 year period. Memorized, written down, and preserved during the period of revelation. <sup>It remains</sup> Still in its original language (Arabic) and form, and one of its miracles is that it is Memorized by heart, by over 10 million Muslims, Arab and non Arab alike, those who speak Arabic as well as those who do not.

**What does the Quran Teach? I recommend that every one of <sup>us</sup> ~~you~~ goes out and <sup>gets a Quran and</sup> reads the Quran today after our discussion. <sup>review</sup>**

**The Quran is the:**

- Primary source for every Muslim's faith and practice
- Provides guidelines for a proper relationship with the creator, and for a just and upright society, proper human conduct, <sup>an</sup> equitable political and social system....

Solely because

## The Quran

• Contains history, science, prophecies, miracles, inspiration, motivation, salvation and much more.

-It is a practical guide on 'How to Live' our daily lives --

-Teaches us our purpose in life

-Teaches us that our creator has rights over us

-Teaches us that other human beings have rights over us

**The quran teaches us about Man as an individual and example of this from the Quran is what god says:**

Verse: ((People, ~~remember~~ <sup>are in about</sup> if you doubt the Resurrection, <sup>can</sup> then indeed

<sup>first</sup> that We created you from dust, then a drop of fluid, then a <sup>blood clot</sup> clinging form, then a lump of flesh, both shaped and unshaped:

We <sup>want</sup> mean to make Our power clear to you. Whatever We choose We cause to remain in the womb for an appointed time, then We bring you forth as infants and then you grow and reach maturity. Some die young and some are left to live on to such an age <sup>old</sup> that they forget all <sup>that</sup> they once knew. You sometimes see the earth lifeless, yet when We send down water it stirs and swells and produces every kind of joyous growth.)) (22: 5)



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## The Quran teaches us about the nature of human beings:

*that they are*  
-ignorant and oppressive

~~hypocrisy~~ *ungrateful*

-Natural inclination towards recognizing the creator

-Hastiness, etc..

## The Quran teaches us about man in his society, social orders and how to maintain it:

-Marriage dealings

-Business dealings

-General dealings - *muslims with muslims, muslims with non-muslims*

## Quran discusses societal vices and provides solutions:

-lying and cheating

*- slandering and falsely accusing others*

-Backbiting

-killing

*- stealing and spreading corruption in the lands*

-fornication

## The Quran speaks about nature

~~creation~~, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, rivers, the wind, seas, plants, animals the stages of human development

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-It's discussion as a proof of God's existence

-It's perfection, beauty, precision, accuracy and organization

### **The Quran speaks about prophethood and revelation**

-God chose certain human beings to be prophets and messengers <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ convey his message to mankind

-The prophets were truthful and trustworthy, angels as well

### **Eschatology**

-Day of judgement

-Descriptions of Paradise and Hellfire

-Descriptions of the blessings available and the torment to be endured

-The death of 'death'

-pre-decree

### **The quran speaks about satan and evil**

-The reason for his fall

-His desire to misguide mankind

-His acceptance of the one true God, but not submitting to him and to his commandments out of arrogance and pride

## The Quran speaks about the emergence of the Muslim community

- Emphasis on having a distinct identity
- Emphasis on self purification (spiritual, physical, mental)
- Emphasis on brotherhood, family and societal values

And much more....

So that brings us to our next question:

### What are some stereotypes regarding Islam/~~Muslim~~ people?

and the muslims?

Before I answer this question I'd like to put a couple of questions ~~out~~ to our friends and colleagues in the audience, to allow us to really think critically and recognize some of the ~~biases~~ <sup>and biases</sup> stereotypes that exist today:

1. Why is a practicing Jew called an orthodox, a practicing Christian is ~~call~~ <sup>called</sup> devout, but the practicing Muslim is called either extremist or fundamentalist?
2. Why can a nun be covered from head to toe and be respected for devoting herself to God, but when a Muslim woman does that, she's considered fanatic <sup>extremist</sup> or oppressed by her husband?
3. Why, when a non-Muslim steals, rapes or commits a mass murder, his religion is irrelevant, and he's not labeled as a terrorist, but when a Muslim is charged with a crime, whether

! or even minority

big or small, he is labeled as a terrorist and the religion of Islam goes on trial along with him?

I'd like all of us to ask ourselves: 'what do we think are the reasons for all <sup>of these stereotypes and</sup> ~~this~~ propaganda and misinformation being spread around'....? If Islam was just another false religion that made no sense, <sup>then why</sup> would so many people need to invent so <sup>many stereotypes and</sup> ~~much~~ falsehood about it?

So much

As for some stereotypes, then we could go on for days and days about them, **but one of the most famous is that:**

a) Muslims are terrorists and Islam was spread by the sword and that Muslims are fundamentalists or extremists...

*I respond to this false claim saying that!*

~~Answer~~ Some people claim that Muslims are terrorists, and that Islam would not have millions of followers all over the world if it had not been spread by military force, killing and forceful conversion. Many textbooks contain pictures of Arabs on horses with the Quran in one hand and a sword in the other, symbolizing forcible conversion to the religion of Islam....

I have to say, that If Islam was ever spread by the sword, then the only sword that it was spread with, is the sword of intellect, the sword of convincing arguments, and the sword of the tongue through fine preaching and the inherent force of truth, reason and logic-something that conquers the hearts, minds and souls of people everywhere, as they say: 'The pen is

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mightier than the sword', the pen conveys knowledge to the heart, the mind and the soul that affects the beliefs, actions and statements...this is why the majority of those who enter Islam and understand it properly never forsake their religion for anything or anyone, *because they were convinced themselves and not forced to convert by the sword --*

Islam is far from being spread by the sword, as Islam has always accorded respect and freedom of choice to people of other faiths, as ~~the~~ Allah says in the Quran:

**'There shall be no compulsion in acceptance of the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong.'** (2:256)

**And Allah says: 'Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and debate with them in the best of ways' (16:125)**

**So lets mention some facts to debunk these false claims, and let them speak for themselves:**

1. Indonesia has the largest number of Muslims in the world, and the majority of people of Malaysia are Muslims. But no Muslim army ever went to Indonesia or Malaysia. Muslim traders and educators carried the message of ~~God~~ *Allah* to those regions and impressed people as outstanding models of honesty and morality.

2. Similarly, Islam spread rapidly on the East coast of Africa, although no Muslim army was ever dispatched to East Africa
3. Despite the disappearance of Islamic rule from many regions of Asia and Africa, their people have remained Muslims. This shows that the effect of Islam is one of approval and moral conviction, quite in contrast to that of some of the Europeans colonial occupation.
4. Muslims ruled Spain for over 800 years. It is a documented historical fact that during this period Christians and Jews enjoyed freedom to practice their respective religions. But thereafter, under Christian Spain, Muslims and Jews were subjected to tribunals of inquisition and torture.
5. Muslims ruled India for 800 years, during which they possessed enough power and authority to force all the people to convert to Islam. But they did not do so, and thus, more than 80% of the population remains non-Muslim.
6. Worldwide statistics for the period from 1934-1984 show that adherents to Islam had increased by 235%, while adherents to Christianity had increased by 47%. There was obviously no Islamic conquest during that fifty year period.
7. The fastest growing religion in America and Europe today is Islam in spite of the fact that Muslims in these lands are still small minorities. The only sword they have in their

Check your  
time  
↓

possession is the sword of Truth. It is this sword which is converting people to Islam.

if  
short  
on time  
Skip  
This  
go to  
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Another stereotype is that: Islam oppresses women and does not promote rights or education for women.

Many people think Islam is a chauvinistic religion that demeans women, and the stereotypical image of the completely secluded and oppressed Muslim woman is all too common. They cite the condition of women in some Muslim countries to emphasize the point, but their error is that they fail to make a distinction between the practice of those people and the true teachings of the religion that they profess. Although some women have been oppressed by Muslims in some cultures; this should not be understood as coming from the religion; rather it reflects customs that are inconsistent, if not completely contrary to Islamic teachings. And it is true that some Muslim men still oppress women; but then so do many non-Muslim men. When Muslims are at fault, it is either because of cultural habit or their ignorance about Islam. In actual fact, Islam expects its adherents to uphold the rights of women, protect their social status, and prevent their degradation in any way. The status of women in earlier civilizations was so low that they were denied basic human dignity. Prostitution was as regular practice, and many considered women to be basically evil,

subhuman and inferior to men. Before Islam, the Arabs disdained women, and often when a female child was born she was buried alive. Islam uplifted women and gave them honor and equal status; and it requires that this status be upheld and maintained. Islam secured for the woman her intellectual, religious, social, economic and political rights, including the right to an education, the right to own property and to use it at her own discretion, and the right to work. A Muslim woman can marry and keep her own last name, ~~she is entitled to inheritance~~ <sup>she is entitled to inheritance</sup>. No one can take a woman's wealth. Many of the so called modern and civilized societies today claim to have improved the condition of women but have actually demoted them to the level of slaves in the hands of pleasure seekers and sex marketers by convincing them that they should be freed from religious and social restrictions. The united states is one of the leading advocates of women's 'liberation', but it also has one of the highest rates of rape and sexual harassment in the world. <sup>many times</sup> A woman's proclaimed right to seek employment and climb the ladder of success is seldom without compromise. As for education, then Muslim women throughout the history of Islam have always been known for being educated and promoting education, in fact the first university ever established in the world was established by two Muslim women.



## How are Muslims viewed/treated in the US?

The way Muslims are ~~viewed~~<sup>+treated</sup> in the US, depends on the place that one lives and the knowledge and awareness of the people. In some places where there are large numbers of Muslims, Muslims are treated fairly well, but in other places where there are not a large number of Muslims, sometimes they can be treated unfairly, just because people are not accepting of people who look different than themselves.

## What influenced you to become a Muslim?

The Bible and critical thinking. There are so many references to the coming of a Prophet after Jesus in the Bible. There are so many teachings of the bible that co-incide with the teachings of Islam. When one critically studies the bible, one will come to find that all of God prophets and messengers had one message for mankind: 'Worship God the creator alone and don't associate partners with him', this is found in the Old testament, the New testament and in the Quran. This makes the most sense, that God-the creator- has always and will always be one. Also the fact that the Quran is the only book of divine revelation that has been unchanged and unaltered by human beings since the time of its revelation.

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to  
SUMMARY, R

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Please take some notes if you can so you can refer back to these passages yourself

For example, if you open the old testament it mentions God as being one:

\* Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4)

\*Has not the One God made and sustained for us the spirit of life?(Malachi 2:15)

\*You may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after Me. I, I am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Savior. (Isaiah 43:10-11)

\*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Who is like Me? (Isaiah 44:6)

\*And there is no other god besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Turn to Me and be saved....To Me every knee shall bow. (Isaiah 45:21-23)

\*God is not a man that he should lie nor is he the son of God that he should repent (Numbers 23:19)

If you open the New testament

\*One came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he (Jesus) said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God (Matthew 19:16-17)

\*Now this is life eternal, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

\*Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only (Matthew 4:10)

\*Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord. (Mark 12:29)

\*For there is one God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1Timothy 2:5)

Another question that I used to ask myself was: Was the 'Trinity' one of Jesus teachings and where is it mentioned explicitly in the Bible?

I didn't find it anywhere mentioned in the Bible

It actually emerged 300 years after Jesus (Council of Nicea)

I used to ask myself --- Why should I believe in the Trinity if it is ~~not~~.

1. Not mentioned in Bible
2. Not compatible with Jesus' message
3. Not necessary to explain 'specialness' of Jesus.
4. It's a mystery as ~~Roman Catholic Church states~~ many Christians and Catholics say

When I opened up the book of Deuteronomy 18:15-18 it mentions of a prophet that will come, and all the evidences in the divine scriptures prove that this is Muhammad.

In Deuteronomy 33:2 it mentions: -'And He said, 'The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousand saints; from his right hand came a fiery law for them'

Sinai=Moses revelation in Egypt

Seir=Same message via Jesus in Jerusalem

Mount Paran=Makkah

In the book of Psalms 84:4-6 Makkah which is also called Bakkah is mentioned:

'Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising you. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, who heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools'

In the book of Isaiah 29:12-

'Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying: 'Read this, please', and he says, 'I am illiterate.'

Muhammad was 40 years old when he received revelation from angel Gabriel, in the cave of Hira. He was commanded, 'read.'

- solely because he was known to be illiterate ...

He answered again, 'I cannot read.' The angel commanded him for the third time, but he gave the same answer.

Muhammad emigrated from Makkah to Madinah and returned after ten years to conquer Makkah, establishing the law of God in that city. He was accompanied by ten thousand companions:

Habakkuk 3:3-4: 'God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. His brightness was like the light. He had rays flashing from his hand, and there His power was hidden.'

And so many other things as well, but mostly my studying of the Old Testament, New Testament and the Quran and comparing and contrasting the three, and understanding them collectively, as this is the only way that a researcher and student can understand any issue, and find the truth ...

That brings us to our next question?

### **How can people in the US treat/view Muslims better?**

Learn more about Islam and think critically about our purpose in life. Interact with more Muslims, get to know them and deal with them. People in the US should increase their awareness about Islam and the Muslims and visit the Mosques where they pray and really get to know the Muslims here in the USA, because they are human beings just like everyone else, with

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families, children, careers and want the same things that everyone else wants, a good education for their children, earn a living, live in a safe environment, and make our communities a better place for all people to live in .