

THE ROOTS & FRUITS OF ISLAM

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The 14th century B.C. great Prophet Moses stated the one true God *'Elohiym* was triune (Genesis 1:1-3,26) from all eternity. Centuries later, the Arabic ancestors of Mohammad claimed he was unitarian *'al-Lah*.

Nico van den Dussen wrote: "Years ago, there was an error in the Reformed Church of South Africa where it was principally being taught that the god of Islam could be the same as our God -- on the basis that the 'names of god' such as *'El/Allah'* (*etc.*) are supposed to have had the same linguistic derivation. The idol of Islam, according to that error, would then have been a dim reflection of the God Whom we worship.

"This error can easily be refuted, if one brings together both NAME and works. We know God not only by His NAME, but especially by His works -- which agree with His NAME."

Prof. Dr. Paul Kruger [RCSA] answered: "I requested information from Dr. Nigel Lee about his remark that *Allah* is connected with the moon-goddess of the [Ancient] Arabs. If that is true, and if Muslims experience it as such (even syncretistically) -- I would not doubt that it involves an idol. I wish for myself still to investigate the valued references which Dr. Lee sent me.

"Yet there are other explanations -- *inter alia*, that Muhammad vaguely heard about the true God from his 'Christian' and Jewish wives. The fact that Christian Arabs too use the Name *Allah* in translating *Elohim* (God), complicates matters -- as too do statements by missionaries that they know of no converts who were formerly Muslims who are now convinced they formerly worshipped another God than they do now.

"I am honestly convinced that this much more concerns the interpretation of Islam, than it does truth or error in respect of the [*Belgic*] *Confession of Faith*. I would distance myself very strongly from somebody who also maintains that Islam is an alternative way to God.

"There is no salvation outside of Christ. The Muslims transgress at least the Second Commandment by their dangerous will-worship. Actually I believe Islam is inherently not only a way of self-redemption, but is also dangerous.

"In the most recent edition of 'Time' it is *inter alia* acknowledged that persecution against Christians (in Iraq) is increasing rapidly. Elsewhere, that is also the case -- *e.g.*, Indonesia.

"What is indeed true, is that transgression of the Second and First Commandments are very close to one another, and are sometimes difficult to distinguish from one another. Worshipping the golden calf at Sinai was worshipping JHWH according to one's own will-worship. But it also finally became idolatry.

"Although I am therefore not 100% convinced that one can without further ado call Islam's Allah an idol in the sense in which the Hindus worship idols, I do not stress the matter so much that I wish to make a polemic out of it. It is more important to preach the unfalsified gospel to this people, wherever that is in any way possible. The unfalsified gospel includes the doctrine of God's Trinitarianness, as we profess it in our *Confessions of Faith*."

Rev. Dr. Lee wrote: "Dear Nico and Paul. I don't think Muslims themselves (except for 'liberal' Muslim-'heretics' like Salmon Rushdie) would acknowledge that there is a connection between *Al-Lah* and the Pre-Islamic Arabian goddess *Al-Lat*."

Sura 53:19-21 in the Koran itself, states: "Have you seen *Lat*, and '*Uzza*, and another, the third (goddess) *Manat*? What! For you the male sex, and for Him the female?"

But the Muslim Yusuf Ali comments: "The three principal idols of Pagan Arab Idolatry were the goddesses *Lat*, '*Uzza*, and *Manat*. Opinions differ as to their exact forms. One version is that *Lat* was in human shape. '*Uzza* had its origin in a sacred tree, and *Manat* in a white stone."

"They all represented God in female forms. To show God in human shape, or imagine sons or daughters of God...was in any case a derogation from the supreme glory of God.... It was particularly degrading to show God, or so-called daughters of God, in female shapes." Thus Ali.

For **us**, however, Calvin is decisive. In his *Institutes* II:6:4, he maintains that the Islamitic Turks, with their 'rejection of Christ, substitute an **idol** in His place' (namely *Allah*). In his sermon on Deuteronomy 18:15, he stresses that 'Muhammad' and 'the Pope' are the 'two horns' of 'Antichrist.' And in his comment on First John 2:22f (*cf.* too on Second Thessalonians 2), he maintains regarding Christ that: "Turks, Jews and such like have a mere idol in place of God."

Avner Boskey writes in his Oct. 11 2001 *Perspective on Islam*: "Is Islam a monotheistic religion? That all depends on how one defines 'monotheism.'"

"Monotheism refers to the belief in one god. But belief in any one god is not exactly the same as belief in the One True God. While the Bible teaches monotheism, it does not teach a generic monotheism (*i.e.*, that it is possible for any spirit to be considered the Supreme Deity).

"The Bible teaches that the God of Israel whose personal name is YHVH (commonly known as Jehovah) -- He alone is God Most High. The same Scriptures also clearly teach that the gods worshipped by the pagan nations are in fact demons (First Kings 18:39; Second Kings 19:18; First Chronicles 16:26; Psalm 96:5; Zechariah 14:9; First Corinthians 8:4-6; Galatians 4:8).

"This may not be a politically correct viewpoint today. But the Bible focuses on eternal truths, and does not try to be a spiritual chameleon. Many people today believe that religion's job is to promote moral and ethical behavior. According to this viewpoint, different religions with their different spirits, names of god or gods, avatars (*etc.*) -- all should be tolerated because these are

simply different ways of expressing the same divine and ethical truths. 'Why argue about whether He is called *YHVH* or *Allah*,' they question with exasperation. 'Stop quibbling about words!'

"The Bible does not agree with this argument, and draws a clear line in the sand. Righteousness and strength, justification and salvation -- are to be found only in the name of the God of Israel (Isa.45:23-25).

"From the Bible's perspective, a false god is a demon, and he who follows a false god engages in idolatry and participates in counterfeit worship. So the question must be asked: is the name of *Allah* an interchangeable name for the One True God, or is *Allah* in fact a demonic spirit?" Thus Avner Boskey

Specifically on the Arabic Pre-Islamic '**moon-goddess**' -- the following from the *Historians' History of the World* (The Times, London, 1908, VIII:100f): The +/- 400 B.C. "Herodotus...says 'The Arabs...worship two gods -- Dionysus whom they call *Urotal*, and Urania whom they call *Alilat*' Abiyate...and the worshippers of Ishtar was defeated in 645 B.C.... That the tribes of the desert should pay particular reverence to the stars, cannot occasion much wonder. With the refreshing dews of night came not only Venus and the **moon**

"Sabaism or magianism was also practised.... Some disciples of Brahmanism were even to be found.... Idolatry nevertheless remained the dominant religion.... All the Arabs acknowledge one supreme God *Al-Lah*, but some of them worshipped under the figures of their idols the angels *Benat-Allah* (the daughters of God).... A great number of tribes had their special idols, *Hobal*, *Lat*, etc....

"No temple had the fame of the *Kaaba*, whose pre-eminence...was looked on as a present made by Jehovah to the Arab race to bear witness to its condition privileged beyond all others. Receiving the 360 idols, subordinate powers accepted by the Arabs, included all their divinities and became the Pantheon of the nation.... The Sabians, the fire-worshippers, sent their offerings to it....

"The votaries of Muhammad are more assured than himself of his miraculous gifts.... His dream of a nocturnal journey, is seriously described as a real and corporal transaction.... He successively ascended the seven heavens.... Beyond the seventh heaven, Muhammad alone was permitted to proceed; he passed the veil of unity, approached within two bow-shots of the throne.... His resistless word split asunder the orb of the **moon**; the obedient planet stooped from her station in the sky, accomplished the seven revolutions round the *Kaaba*, saluted Mohammad in the Arabian tongue -- and, suddenly contracting her dimensions, entered at the collar, and issued forth through the sleeve of his shirt." Thus the *Historians' History*.

For whatever it may be worth, I mention that SIRIUS, the Strategic Issues Research Institute (www.siri-us.com and e-mail: Benworks@AOL.Com) estimated in 2002 (Copyright) that in Islamic Terrorist attacks on the West from 1988 till then, "a visible crescent **moon** appears to be a 'signature' element in recent *Al Qaeda* attacks.... Islam runs on the Lunar calendar and the god *Allah* draws

as much from the ancient **moon-goddess** worshipped at the *Kaaba* in Mecca as it does from the God of the Christians and Jews. Ramadan begins and ends with the new **moon** over Mecca. And by unofficial count, a crescent features in 12 national flags of Muslim states. Further data indicate that *Al Qaeda* and other Islamic terrorists do, in fact, favor action during the period of the crescent **moon.**" Thus SIRIUS.

The morning star Venus seems to have been venerated throughout ancient Arabia. The Meccans honoured two goddesses, Manat the goddess of happiness and Allat the goddess of the sky. Over these two was placed Allah who was recognized by the seventh century A.D. as 'Lord of the temple' in the Kaaba of Mecca.

"Merry melodies, **loony** tunes"? Choose ye this day, **Whom** (or what) ye will serve!

God of Bible -- or Islam's god?
Jehovah Lord -- or Allah?
Immanent -- or remote?
Creator of man -- or creature of man?
Incarnated -- or suprahistorical?
Omnipotent -- or impotent?
Forgiver of sin -- or excuses sins?
Gracious -- or tyrannical?
Evangelizer -- or subjugator?
Trini-personal -- or uni-personal?
Ever-loving -- or fickle?
Knowable -- or unknowable?
Immutable -- or capricious?
Just -- or arbitrary?

TEXTS IN THE QUR'AN EMPLOYABLE IN APPROACHING MUSLIMS

(derived chiefly from the Bible, and Arabized subsequently)

I. DOCTRINE OF GOD

(1) Only one God -- *Qur'an* 2:255 & 6:100-106 (Deut. 6:4; I Cor. 8:6; Jas. 2:19). "God! There is no god but He -- the Living, the Self-subsisting, the Eternal.... His are all things in the heavens and on earth.... He knows what (appears to creatures as) before or after or behind them.... He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory)....

"God did create.... There is no god but He.... Follow what you are taught by inspiration from your Lord!... Turn aside from those who join [other] gods with God!"

(2) God indivisible -- *Qur'an* 4:171; & 5:75-76; 50:38 (cf. Matt. 28:18 & I John 5:6f).

"Believe in God and His Apostles! Do not say 'Trinity'! Desist!... For God is one God....

"They do blaspheme who say: 'God is Christ the son of Mary.' But (Jesus) Christ said: 'O children of Israel -- worship God, my Lord and your Lord!' Whoever joins other gods with God -- God will forbid him the Garden, and the Fire will be his abode.... They do blaspheme who say: 'God is one of three in a Trinity' No god, except one God! If they do not desist from their word (of blasphemy), truly a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers!...

"**We** [viz. *Allah*] created the heavens and the earth." As too in Judaism's Genesis 1:26 "Royal We," this old-Semitic expression acknowledges the Trinitarian Creator-God!

II DOCTRINE OF CREATION

(1) in six days -- *Qur'an* 7:54; 41:9-12; 50:38 & 57:3-4 (cf. Gen. 1 & Ex. 20:8-11).

"Your Guardian-Lord is God Who created the heavens and the earth in **six** (not in seven) days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority). He draws the night like a veil over the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession. He created the sun, the moon, and the stars --(all) governed by laws under His Command....

"Is it that you deny Him Who created the earth in **two** days?... He is the Lord of (all) the worlds. He set mountains on the (earth), standing firm high above it; and bestowed blessings on the earth and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion in four days.... Moreover, He comprehended the sky in His design.... He said to it and to the Earth: 'You must come together!'.... So He completed them as seven firmaments in two days, and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command....

"We [God] created the heavens and the earth and all between them in six (not seven) days....
"He is the First and the Last, the Evident and the Immanent.... He has full knowledge of all things. He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six days."

(2) variety in - *Qur'an* 35:27-28 (cf. Job 28:1-26; 29:23; 36:26-33; 27:5f; 38:25-28).

"Do you not see that God sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colours. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of colour, and black intense in hue. And so amongst men and crawling creatures and cattle, they are of various colours. Those truly fear God among His servants who have knowledge. For God is exalted in Might, oft forgiving."

(3) God's mighty deeds - *Qur'an* 2:117; 16:40; 40:68 (cf. Gen. 1:2-7 & Ps. 33:6-9).

"To Him is due the primal origin of the heavens and the earth. When He decrees a matter, He says to it: 'Be!' - and it is....

"To anything which We have willed, We but say [to] the world: 'Be!' - and it is....
"It is He Who gives life and death; and when He decides upon an affair, He says to it 'Be!' -- and

it is."

(4) creation's goal - *Qur'an* 15:85;16:3;22:14; 44:38f; 45:22; 46:19 (cf. Rev. 4:11).

"We created not the heavens, the earth, and all between them - but for just ends. And the hour is surely coming (when this will be manifest)....

"He has created the heavens and the earth for just ends.... God will admit those who believe and work righteous deeds, to Gardens beneath which rivers flow. For God carries out all that He plans....

"We created not the heavens, the earth, and all between them - merely in (idle) sport. We created them not -- except for just ends....

"God created the heavens and the earth for just ends, and in order that each soul may find the recompense of what it has earned, and none of them be wronged....

"To all are (assigned) degrees according to the deeds which they (have done), and in order that (God) may recompense their deeds, and no injustice be done to them."

(5) man's creation - *Qur'an* 16:4f,14 & 40:57 (cf. Gen. 1:26f and Pss. 8, 103 & 104).

"He has created man from a sperm-drop.... And cattle He has created for you. From them, you derive warmth and numerous benefits, and of their (meat) you eat.... It is He Who has made the sea subject, so that you may eat thereof flesh that is fresh and tender....

"Assuredly the creation of the heavens and the earth is a greater (matter) than the creation of men. Yet most men understand not!"

(6) Adam before the fall-- *Qur'an* 2:30f; 3:59; 4:1; 6:98; 7:11; 15:26; 20:117f; 49:13 (cf. Gen. chs. 1 to 5; Rom. 5:12-14; I Cor. 15:22-47; II Cor. 11:3 & II Tim. 2:13f)

"Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth'.... And He taught Adam the nature of all things; then placed them [Adam and Eve] before the angels, and said: 'Tell Me the nature of these, if you are right!' They said: 'Glory to You! Of knowledge we have none, save what You have taught us. In truth, it is You Who are perfect in knowledge and wisdom.' He said: 'O Adam, tell them their natures!' When he had told them, God said: 'Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heavens and earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal?'.... We said: 'O Adam, you and your wife are to dwell in the Garden and eat of the bountiful things therein as (where and when) you will!'....

"The similitude of Jesus before God is like that of Adam. He created him from dust, then said to him: 'Be!' And he was....

"O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord Who created you from a single person; created, of like nature, his mate; and from the two of them scattered (like seeds) countless men and women! Reverence God, through Whom you demand your mutual (rights)! And (reverence) the wombs

(that bore you)! For God ever watches over you....

"It is He Who has produced you from a single person....

"We created man from sounding clay; from mud, moulded into shape....

"It is We Who created you and gave you shape."

Yet, after the fall of man, there is no doctrine of atonement, as in Genesis 3:15.

"We said: 'O Adam! Truly, this [Satan] is an enemy to you and your wife. So let him not get you both out of the Garden, so that you land in misery! There is therein (enough provision) for you not to go hungry nor to go naked, nor to suffer from thirst nor from the sun's heat'

"O mankind! We created you from a single...male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other -- not so that you may despise each other. Truly, the most honoured of you in the sight of God -- is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge, and is well acquainted (with all things)."

The *Qur-an* has much to say about Noah, but not about how God saved his family of eight in the ark, but rather how Noah chased one son outside the ark, and drowned him! Too, the *Qur-an* too has much to say about Ibrahim and his Arabic son Ishmael of Kaaba fame! The *Qur-an* also honours Moses, but not for his predictions of the Saviour Jesus (Deut. 18:18-22). The *Qur-an* too honours certain Israelitic prophets, alongside many Arabic ones. The *Qur-an* also greatly honours the virgin-born Jesus, but not as our Atoner as Paul did.

The Common Law's doctrine of legal equality is undermined by the Islamic *shariah* with its provision of each male Moslem's ability to have four wives simultaneously, while subjugating Non-Moslems to dhimmitude, while Islam conquers the world.

A) Remotely, Islamic eschatology is based upon a mixture of Pagan (Arabic and Parsi), Judaistic, and Christian elements. It is immediately derived, *via* its *Hadith*, from its own *Qu'ran* (which recycles the above-mentioned more remote material).

B) Islam teaches that after death and before the judgment, the faithful dead are in a state of repose. They are said to enter *al-Barzakh*, and to dwell in or near the grave. But the wicked are tormented there, or in a foul dungeon.

C) After each's death, all persons are believed to be visited in the grave by two angels (*Munkar* and *Nakir*) who examine them as to their faith in the [anti-trinitarian] uni-personality of *Allah* and the mission of *Muhammad*. If the answers are satisfactory, the dead sleep on in peace, refreshed by the air of Paradise; otherwise, they are struck with a hammer and the earth pressed down upon them. Their corpses are gnawed by 99 dragons -- while their big sins become venomous snakes; and lesser sins, scorpions.

D) Meantime, before the death of the last-dying man, here on Earth many wondrous signs precede the Last Day of Judgment (*Yaum ad-Din*; compare *es-Sa'a*, “the Hour”). Its time is known only to God. Those earthly signs are:

1) The sun shall rise in the West (as it did in the beginning). This means that the Occident shall yet embrace Islam. The *Dar-es-Charab* or ‘Place of the Sword’ -- currently under the rule of the West and other ‘infidel powers’ -- also by way of *jihad* or Islamic holy warfare shall yet become the *Dar-es-Salaam* or Islamic ‘Place of Peace.’

2) The Beast shall appear, at least sixty cubits tall -- with the head of a bull, the eyes of a hog, the ears of an elephant, the horns of a stag, the neck of an ostrich, the breast of a lion, the colour of a tiger, the back of a cat, the tail of a ram, the legs of a camel, and the voice of an ass. It shall hit believers on the face; mark unbelievers on the face with the word “infidel” (*kafir*); speak Arabic; and prove that all religions save Islam are false.

3) Some 70 000 of the seed of Isaac shall cry out toward Constantinople: “There is no God but *Allah!*” This shall cause its walls to fall down flat.

4) The one-eyed Antichrist alias *ad-Dajjal* will then come, with the letters *K & F & R* (for *KaFiR*) on his forehead. The Jews shall call him “Messiah Ben David” -- pretending he will rule the world and restore the kingdom to them.

5) He shall be slain by Jesus. The latter shall descend from Heaven, become a Muslim, marry and beget children, and die when at least forty -- after a short period of prosperity when lions and camels shall live in peace together and when children shall play with serpents.

6) The Muslims shall war against and slaughter many of the Jews. The trees and stones shall expose such Jews who hide under them -- except the Jew-tree (*Gharkad*).

7) Gog and Magog (*Yajuj & Majuj*) shall come to Jerusalem and greatly distress Jesus there. Then Allah shall destroy them by using birds of prey to fill the Earth with their carcasses, while Muslims shall burn their bows and arrows for seven years.

8) The Arabs shall then apostasize from Islam and resume their worship of their ancient idols *Allat* and *al Uzza*. God himself shall send a wind from Damascus to blow away even the *Qur'an*, so that men shall remain ignorant for a century.

9) The Euphrates shall retreat and uncover heaps of silver and gold. This shall destroy many. The Ethiopians shall then demolish the *Ca'aba* in Mecca, while animals and things shall speak.

10) The *Mahhdi* predicted by Muhammad shall come and establish a reign of righteousness. That shall not end till one of his own family governs the Arabs.

11) Then the angel *'Israfil* shall sound the trumpet, which shall be followed by frightful convulsions in Nature. The heavens shall melt, the sun shall be darkened, the stars shall fall, angels shall die, the sea shall get dried up and/or turned into flames, and women suckling their babies shall abandon them.

12) At the second blast of the trumpet, all creatures shall die in the twinkling of an eye. The angel of death shall be the last to die.

13) Forty years later, at the third blast, the resurrection shall take place. The resurrected angel *'Israfil* shall stand on the rock of the temple of Jerusalem, calling together all the dry and decomposed bones. Muhammad shall be the first man to arise. After forty years' rain, all other dead bodies shall come forth from their graves, till they are perfect. After that, they shall have breath breathed into them. Thenceforth, they shall sleep in their tombs till raised by the last trumpet.

14) At the fourth and last blast, all shall rise to give an account of themselves out of the book of their deeds. Muhammad shall become their intercessor -- after Adam, Noah, Abraham and Jesus all decline to do so. God shall be seated on His throne with His angels. The recording angels who follow men all through life, witness against them -- and the works of men and genies (*jinnin*) get weighed in a balance held by Gabriel. The judgment lasts 1000 or 50000 years.

15) All must then cross the bridge *as-Sirat*, which passes over Hell to Paradise, and is finer than a hair and sharper than the edge of a sword. The righteous cross it easily, but the wicked fall or are thrown from it into Hell.

16) The wicked shall be punished, according to class, in one of seven regions of hell. The first, Gehenna (*Jehennam*), shall be for wicked Muslims. The second, *Ladha*, shall be for the Jews. The third, *Hotoma*, is for Christians. The fourth, *al Sair*, is for Sabians. The fifth, *Sakar*, for the Magi. The sixth, *al Jahim*, for idolators. The seventh and worst of all, *al Hawyat*, for the hypocrites (or *munafiqin*).

17) Only the infidels or *kafirin* remain in Hell for ever. The Muslims shall be released after expiating for their sins in Hell for at least 900 and for a maximum of 7000 years. Such shall then be totally immersed in one of the rivers of Paradise called "The River of Life" -- which shall wash them whiter than pearls.

18) Heaven and Earth shall then be changed. *Jahm ibn Safwan* taught that both would finally pass away, and God would remain alone. The righteous pass to the seven regions of Paradise -- the sensual joys of which, as described in passages of the *Qu'ran*, are such as would appeal to people living in a desert region. The trunks of the Tuba or tree of happiness, shall be of gold. Its boughs bend down spontaneously to the hand of the person wanting to pluck its fruits. The rivers of Paradise that flow from its root, are variously of water and milk and wine and honey.

19) One's everlasting companions shall be ravishing girls of Paradise (or *Hur al oyun*). With their large black eyes, they are created from pure milk and free from all impediments. They shall

inhabit hollow pearls some sixty miles large.

20) The big pearls and their contents shall be in one huge happy mansion called “the Garden” (or *al Jannat*). There, everyone shall have the abilities of a hundred men. Of course, if a Muslim dies fighting in a holy war (or *jihad*), he goes straight from 1) to 19f) above!

All of the above assembled when the writer was slowly suffering Lou Gehrig’s Disease, on his way to Heaven, because of what Jesus had done for him!