



IN A FEW WORDS ... WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

Come with us ... let's follow a fervent discussion that answers key questions about Christianity. A discussion with a courteous and respectful judge asking me with interest and zeal in an attempt to reach the truth, debating as an investigator, handing down the conviction through justice that satisfies his conscience ... Let's follow the dialogue.

Mr. Aiad Aiad

IS GOD THREE (TRIUNE) OR ONE?

Judge: You worship God, so do others. Why can't we all worship Him the same way? ... We worship God and say that He is one God. You, too, worship God and say that He is one God, and also say that Christ is the Son of God, as one may say 'the sons of the American Revolution'; we only differ in the interpretation. Can't we all worship God the same way?

Aiad: It is very comforting that we worship one God, and that we can worship Him the same way.

But can we agree on a specific way of worshiping? Let us consider it a court case and that you are the ruling judge.

Judge: Allow me to question: Christians say that God is One, but at the same time they mention the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to be one being. Can you explain? How could one being be three? Or three beings be one?

Aiad: I also have a question, Who created the universe? Permit me to answer with what I think you believe. It is God Who created this universe ... This means that God is a being and every being is a person; God is a being through His person. God created man to be a rational being capable of speech. If man can speak, then the Creator must have the ability to speak as well. We all know that the word is the incarnation of any form of speech, and no one can speak without forming words. The same is true with God; He speaks through His Word.

Furthermore, man is a living creature... Then the creator must be alive and life is through the spirit ... God is alive through His Spirit.

God is a being through His person, communicates through His Word, is alive through His Spirit.

We never mean polytheism, but believe in one God, a Being Who is Rational, and Who is Alive. It is mentioned clearly in our Holy Bible that,

“God is one” (Romans 3:30).

We also know intuitively that the being is the emitter of speech that is the word, and the word is emitted through the being or the person. For God, the emitter is the Father and the Word is the Son.

God exists by Himself; the Father ... and the Word begotten of Him is the Son ... the life of God is the

Holy Spirit. So God exists by Himself, is emitter of His Word, and is alive through His Spirit.

God is Father and Son and Holy Spirit ... One God.

There was not a single day when God was speechless or was without life. He is by Himself from the beginning, an eternal being. He is speaking from the beginning, eternal in His Word. He is alive from the beginning, eternal in His Spirit. Consequently, the Father is eternal, the Word is eternal, and the Holy Spirit is eternal.

God is one, alive, eternal, and rational.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).

HOW CAN GOD PERMIT HIMSELF TO APPEAR IN THE FLESH?

Judge: Interesting to know that God, the rational being, is one God. This is not anything new to us. New and strange is that Christians say God was incarnate or took the form of man! We all know the majesty and the greatness of God Who once appeared on the mountain to Moses the prophet so that the mountain kindled with fire and the earth quaked ... It was said: “The mountain eclipsed”. So how would God permit Himself to appear in the flesh? Another critical question: What are the reasons for this incarnation?

Aiad: You know that Adam sinned and so did Eve. Destruction went forth because of this sin ... It did not affect Adam and Eve alone but rather affected the whole creation.

Judge: Is it possible for me, a judge, to prosecute the criminal's children and sentence them because their father is a criminal? Could I sentence the sons according to their father's crime?

Aiad: This is a fair question from a fair judge ... Accordingly, we need to investigate the case before the court of conscience. The Lord God commanded Adam, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 16:2).

The tree itself was not that great, for God is able to create millions of trees. However, God wanted to show Adam that though He gave him authority over all the creation, there still was a greater authority than him, God's authority.

Obedience to the command not to eat from this particular tree is the essence of obeying God. But when Satan offered his advice to Eve to eat from the tree, he was drawing her to God's disobedience and consequently her submission to Satan.

Eve ate the fruit of the tree and then gave of it to her husband who also ate. Through this act, Adam declared plainly that he disobeyed God and submitted to Satan. As a result, both doubted God's ability to carry out the punishment for rebellion He laid down.

Also resulting from this offence was a psychological readiness on the part of the first parents to accept the seeds of discord which Satan threw between them and God. Perhaps all the instincts that make up human nature were passed down through our first parents. Everything that we feel, from doubt, deception, hypocrisy, to sedition descended from one source, Adam and Eve.

From here we see that sin was not contained only within Adam and Eve but has extended through reproduction of this stained nature to the rest of mankind. You and I and everyone else, whether we acknowledge or deny it, through our human nature, incline towards evil except those who have received grace from God:

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin,

and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity. And in sin my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5).

What does it mean that the descendants of Adam and Eve were prevented from returning to Paradise?

It means that the judgment issued by God on the first two parents included all human beings who were produced through the infected blood with sin.

MERCY AND JUSTICE

Judge: Could not God have issued amnesty? Couldn't He pardon Adam and his descendants without the need to resort to the Incarnation which is the cornerstone of Christianity?

Aiad: Perhaps the common person asks a similar question, but a Judge knows that God is perfect in His justice as He is perfect in His mercy and compassion. General amnesty is not an element of justice but of mercy and compassion, and perfect justice requires perfect retribution.

God's justice is perfect and thus requires the perfect completion of the punishment from mankind. Since there is no forgiveness without shedding of blood, as religions say, we must ask whose blood is to be shed? Is it the blood of a human? No, for all humans are infected with sin ... and an infected blood does not purify another infected blood.

Is it the blood of an animal as some have perceived it to be an atoning sacrifice for sin? No. The blood of an animal is not enough to atone for sin because the animal did not share in the sin of Adam so that its blood could be enough for atonement of sin. In addition, the animal is extinct, meaning that it is not eternal. Even if it is created out of the ground as Adam, God did not breathe into it the breath of life that characterized Adam as being eternal. The animal, therefore, is not enough to atone but was

slaughtered in ancient times as a foreshadow to the sacrifice which is the cornerstone of Christianity. An angel would not be able to atone for humanity, since angels do not have blood and are not of the same kind as humans.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

First: Blood to act as a true representation of humanity so that it could be a designee for the atonement of its fault.
Second: Also, the blood needs to be pure blood, blameless, free from any pollution whether through inheritance or otherwise.

This pure blood, that on the one hand would represent humanity and on the other hand would be pure from any sin, is the most plausible solution for the atonement for the sin of humanity.

Judge: Is there a way to achieve this blood that combines both representation and blamelessness?

Aiad: For this very reason, the Word, the second entity of the divinity, came inside the womb of the Virgin Mary and became man.

“Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3:16).

Judge: Was not the Virgin Mary also the daughter of Adam and Eve and thus suffered the polluted blood?

Aiad: The Holy Spirit, God's Spirit, descended on her to purify her so that God the Word could be born of her.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One Who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

Judge: If the Holy Spirit was enough for cleansing the Virgin Mary from sin, why does He not descend on all

humans to vindicate them from every sin instead of necessitating God's incarnation?

Aiad: The Holy Spirit descended on the Virgin Mary personally to purify her so that she might be able to become the mother of Jesus Who was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. In spite of this, she could not enter the Kingdom of God without the blood of Christ who is called the Son of Man, as Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, a daughter of Adam and Eve. This way Jesus Christ could be the representative of all mankind. In addition, since Christ is the eternal Word, the Son of God, He holds the perfect ability of abolishing sin through His pure blood that was shed on the cross.

See, the Word was born of the Virgin Mary miraculously without the seed of man and thus not contracting the disease of sin, like the rest of us. He was pure of sin, and thus He is able to save those who are under the bondage of sin.

Judge: You have dissipated every argument I have ... Because if the Holy Spirit was enough to cleanse the Virgin Mary so that she might enter heaven without the need for the blood of Christ, I would have objected to the issue of Incarnation which in that case becomes irrelevant, but now I need more clarification.

WHO IS CHRIST?

Aiad: The Son was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. He lived among us to light the way for us, and in this manner humanity could see God through His spotless life, His humbleness, the light of His gleaming words, and His distinct miracles. In short, humanity was able to see God clearly through the life of the Son of God.

People learned that the miracle of all miracles of Christ was not just healing the sick or casting out the devils -not even raising the dead. It was His wonderful work in the human heart. Work of grace which transformed the bands of thieves, murderers,

sinners, adulterers, and the criminals. The grace of God turned them into saints.

It helped them to be victorious over human nature. They turned the materialistic life of arrogance, selfishness, and repugnant greed into the deep spirituality with sacrifice of time, effort, sweat, and blood, all for the happiness of others. Christ, to Him be glory, built a society founded on sound spirituality, out of which emits a moral social life that is immersed in kindness and compassion, mercy and service, holiness and wisdom; spirituality that is radiating lights and graces among people, producing moral fruits. This is the result of following the example of Christ who came to us with compassion and love.

He taught us through His words, saved us with His own blood, and was crucified for us all and then rose again on the third day, having loosed the pangs of death and finally assuming His glory.

Judge: Truly the incarnation put an accord between justice and mercy. Justice was fully satisfied through Christ's death as He offered Himself on behalf of the doomed mankind. Perfect mercy was also well manifested in Christ who submitted Himself to death for sinners and criminals while He is holy and righteous.

IS THERE A PROOF?

Judge: Those who have not seen the merits of the judgment in this case may be astounded by the judgment itself. However, when they realize the truth, the judgment no longer seems so strange. Is it possible to find a reasonable explanation that God has appeared in the flesh?



Aiad: There are a scripted evidence, a rational evidence, and an acceptable evidence.

Scripted evidence: It is mentioned in the Bible that Moses the prophet heard a voice proceeding from a burning bush. The voice was saying, "Moses ... take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5). Then He continued: "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6).

Rational Evidence: We believe that God accepted to descend in a bush (tree) on the mountain of Sinai - though the bush is created for man, and man is more precious to God than the bush. Then, was it not more honorable for Him to appear in the flesh through the Virgin Mary?

Acceptable Evidence: In response to those who ask if God had appeared in the flesh, through the birth of the Word from the Virgin, then who was running the universe during the nine months Jesus was in Mary's womb? The answer: Was heaven ever free from His holy majesty? Was there a place on earth free from His presence when He appeared in the bush of Sinai?

God is everywhere at the same time and exists at all times. Albeit mortal eyes cannot see Him, yet He is revealed through faith. At the bush, He was neither bound by place nor by time. The same is true when He was incarnated from the Virgin Mary; no place bound Him; no time limited Him. God also has complete unlimited knowledge of everything, and He is infinite in power.

Finally, my beloved, is God incapable of anything? Is God unable to appear in the flesh? It is the love of God that compelled Him to incarnate. It was not the nails that tied the Son of God to the cross. Rather it was the love for us that compelled Him.

He appeared in the flesh fulfilling His promise; for when Adam and Eve fell, the divine promise was that the descendant of the woman (Virgin Mary)

would crush the serpent's (devil) head:

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He shall crush your head, And you shall strike His heel" (Genesis 3:15).

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4).

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).

Christ was called the Son of Man for He was born of the Virgin Mary, a daughter of Adam and Eve:

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man Who is in heaven" (John 3:13).

And as the eternal Word, He is the Son of God:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God the incarnate sacrificed His blood to redeem mankind, and He is ready to save the most sinful who are addicted to evil and indulged in sin.

AND THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR EVERYONE:

"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22).

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

"And He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptances, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

"For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

"Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

"Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7).

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Judge: This is a happy day ... The day in which you revealed to me the secrets of the New Testament.

Aiad: I wish you more ... and anyone who wants to know. I also hope an increase in the faith, growth in the grace, depth in the fellowship, and entrenchment in love ... through the Spirit of renewal.

To learn more, you can read the Bible, beginning with the New Testament at:

<http://www.biblestudytools.com>



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Christianity?