

## **Islam: The pagan connection**

In the 90's I wrote a series of books describing the mixture of Christian thought with pagan idolatry that we now know of as the Roman Catholic "Church." To this day Rome deceives the nations by presenting a Christian message clothed in the garb of foreign deities. It is no secret that much of South American Catholicism, for example, is just the old gods of the people wearing the new names of Christian saints. In great measure, lives are not changed, only outward appearances. For a clear picture of how this works, visit Chiapas, southernmost state of Mexico, and learn firsthand how evangelical believers are thrust out of their homes and communities for not joining in the "mixed" religion which includes ancient practices of native religionists comingled with Romanism. Part of this mixture is drunken celebrations to which the born again cannot subscribe, and because of which many are made homeless. Perhaps the new and gentle Pope needs to take a visit to Chiapas himself.

Islam too has a pagan connection. The Muslim religion is a clever concoction of very Biblical with very anti-Biblical sentiments, that sends people to Hell by the thousands every day. I say "clever" in reference either to the prophet with whom it all started, a prophet by the way who never prophesied or worked a miracle, and/or to a deceiving spirit that arrested that man's attention early in his life, and in the process has changed world history more than once.

I speak of course of Muhammad of Arabia. To him supposedly appeared an angel calling himself Gabriel. I say calling himself, because we know that the real Gabriel gave messages to mankind through Daniel, Joseph, and Mary, that are diametrically opposed to the one given to the man in the cave in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Daniel's Gabriel tells of the coming of Messiah, the Prince. The Jewish Messiah. The Jewish Messiah who shall be cut off, killed, but not for Himself. In Islam, Jesus did not die on a cross to save us from our sins. So says Muhammad's Gabriel.

Luke's Gabriel tells of one Jesus, who is to be conceived in Mary's womb, and called the very Son of God. Islam has no Father in Heaven, and therefore no Son on Earth. Jesus, according to Muhammad's Gabriel, is just another prophet, another man, and censure is placed on anyone who would suggest that the genderless god of the Koran could be this intimately involved with the creation.

How we wish Muhammad had listened to his own fears after those frightful first revelations. He wanted to denounce the cave visions as demonic, or so the story goes. He was right, you know. For anyone or anything that comes against the Son of God and His truth is indeed of the Devil.

Unfortunately, one who was semi-related to the church in an apostate cult of the day, convinced the prophet-to-be that he was hearing from God, regardless of the violence and oppression with which messages came.

"Gabriel" and his revelations led Muhammad step by step into a connection with false gods, demon spirits, and lies, mixed intricately with undeniable truths. We call that mixture Islam.

Now, about that pagan connection. Up front we must simply admit that we cannot give heed to those who say that Islam is merely a cult of moon worshippers. Ask as many Muslims as you will, you will find that none of them is knowingly involved in worshiping either the moon, or a moon-god in statue form, or some demon behind it all. Obviously. It's not that simple.

On the other hand, one cannot *ignore* Islam's origins, borne out by history, archaeology, theology. It's oh so clear where the Muslim faith originated, and the connections it still has.

One can have a conversation with a Roman Catholic, even a knowledgeable one, and find that the person is unaware of anything pagan in his religion, whether practice or precept. But the connection is still real. The poison will still kill, though undetected.

One could counter, wait! What about Abraham's origin? Our venerable "father of the faithful" was possibly a moon worshiper himself, but at the very least he came out of a city given over to that practice! Was he always a man of God? Or did God have to call him out of pagan Ur unto Himself? Certainly members of his family had been contaminated in some way, hence the call for separation. So what is the difference between an Abraham and a Muhammad? Both were founders of a world religion that began in a pagan setting.

That is not too difficult a question to answer:

1. Abraham was first. By 2,700 years. The Jewish religion had been evolving from one revelation to the next until it culminated in the coming of Messiah. Muhammad perverted the message of Abraham and the Messiah that came from him, while claiming to be a descendant of Abraham in the true faith.
2. Abraham received his message from the Lord God Himself. Muhammad heard from an "angel", if we are to believe the standard tradition of Islam's beginnings. We would have to add, a fallen angel, pretending to be a true one. There are some who would say he created the entire "revelation" in his own mind and never heard from anyone.
3. Abraham's people were promised by the living God, the land of Canaan, and received it. This is Israel. No such prophecy is found in the Koran.
4. Through Abraham was to come the one who would bless all nations. Jesus fulfilled that perfectly. Muhammad was given no such promise, only threatenings of Allah-style justice on the wicked.

Let's look at the pagan connection more fully. It is further established by a look at pagan worship in the world generally, worship of the moon-god in Arabia in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, what the name "Allah" meant to the Arabians, and a study of just who was the moon god. Piece all that together, and there is only one conclusion. Somehow, paganism still lives, with new names.

But, call the Muslims deliberate moon-worshippers today? Why, the Koran specifically says Allah's people are not to worship the moon!

**The pagan worship of "meteorites."**

We can begin to trace Arabic paganism by taking a look at the meteorites that have visited us from time to time.

For centuries in the Roman and Greek world, religious cults formed around a fallen meteorite. The book of Acts records an episode in Paul's life that reveals that the Ephesians truly believed that the statue of Diana in the Temple that honored her actually had been sent down from Jupiter.

Many other cities over the Greek and Roman time claimed similar visitations and had the rock to prove it. These stones were worshiped, listened to...

We all know of a similar stone, a black one, that resides in the sanctuary of Mecca, Arabia. The Ka'abah is a stone building intending to house the mysterious stone, a meteorite worshiped for many centuries before Muhammad. Amazingly, the Prophet found a way to incorporate the old paganism into his new religion, and to this day Muslims must offer their kisses to this inanimate object of devotion. Muslims of course are not permitted to portray God as an object, nor is adoration of objects allowed, yet as their first cousins the Romanists, who essentially worship Mary, Islamists have found a way to justify their practice. In Muslim thought the stone is actually a divine meteorite that got here even before the creation, and wound up at the feet of Adam and Eve. It is called "the right hand of God." Oh my.

Proof? Who can prove such a thing? To the Muslim, this has simply been divinely revealed. And a divine stone, divinely revealed, must certainly get the attention it gets, but we won't call it worship. Shhhh.

That is a pagan connection.

### **The moon god in history.**

Here is another connection to paganism.

This illustrious heavenly body, the moon, is no stranger to being the object of worship, either by itself or via a carved image wearing its name. The worship of the moon was extensively practiced by the nations of the East, per Merrill Unger (Bible Dictionary). Others claim that moon-god worship was the prevailing religion of the ancient world.

The Sumerians were the first culture to leave literature for us to interpret. They without question worshipped a moon god who had many names, but one symbol: the crescent moon. It is believed that this worship was the predominant one in Sumeria.

In old Assyria and Babylonia the moon-god Suen, later Sin, prevailed. In Babylonia's city of Larsa, Eri-Aku was king. His name means "the servant of the moon-god".

Haran, where Abraham moved in answer to God's call, was also a moon-god center. Also Hazer, in Palestine. There, 2 idols were found, both of which were men sitting on a throne, with a crescent moon carved on his chest.

In Ur, the moon was worshipped in the form of the above-mentioned *Sin*. The birth place and home of Abraham, was the seat of the great temple of this moon-god.

The name *Sin* shows up in our Bibles as the children of Israel are in the wilderness. There is a wilderness in fact called *Sin*, and a mountain called *Sinai*, you will recall. The famous Ishtar, namesake of Easter, was the daughter of Sin and his sun-goddess wife. The stars are considered the daughters of this union.

The peninsula next to Egypt was saturated with this cult. And so was Egypt itself. The name of the moon god there was *Isis*. Only a coincidence that many followers of Muhammad today wear that acronym?

Syria praised the god of the moon, associated with the symbol of the crescent moon, and called him Karnaim. Here again, the Moon-god *Sin* was usually seen as a crescent moon.

Later the Greeks and the Romans too got on board with moon worship. The well known Artemis/Diana was the goddess of light by night, that is, the goddess of the moon.

It is said that everywhere in the ancient world one can find the symbol of the crescent moon, whether on pottery, or weights, or jewelry, wall murals etc. Bread was baked in the form of a crescent. The crescent was always placed at the top of a list of gods, showing the predominance of the moon cult.

### **The moon in Israel and our own culture**

God's people followed suit during the reign of the kings. Israel was surrounded by this paganism and eventually fell prey to it. Jeremiah especially has to deal with the queen of heaven and the sun, moon, and stars being revered by Israel.

Excavations at Tell-el-Obeid uncovered a copper calf with a crescent moon on its forehead, perhaps the very idol worshipped by Israel in the wilderness of Sin, the moon-god!

The moon continues to be significant to us. Whether the romantically inclined, or the people at NASA, or the weekly coming around to the second day, Moon-Day, we are forever a part of this culture ourselves.

"Lunatic" refers to the fact that the moon's pull on our planet is greater in some individuals than others. Can one actually go mad because of moon-waves? One thing is certain. The religion of the crescent moon among us today is bringing a depression on the earth unequalled since the days of the Communists and the Nazis. Fear is gripping millions as the terror of the people of the moon descends upon us.

### **Paganism in Arabia**

Let's say it outright: Foremost among the gods of *Arabia* was the god of the moon.

Archaeology proves that the dominant religion of Arabia in Muhammad's day and long before was the cult of the moon-god. This conclusion is based on the thousands of inscriptions from walls and rocks in Northern Arabia, and other artifacts used in worship to Allah and the "daughters of Allah" as some lesser gods, perhaps stars, were called. Sometimes, in statue relics, the daughters are seen together with Allah, who is symbolized by a crescent moon above them.

The last king of Babylon, Nabonidus, in the 500's B.C. built Tayma, Arabia to be a center of Moon-god worship. Mecca also was built originally as a shrine for the Moon-god, though 360 other gods were worshipped at the Ka'aba, making it by far the most sacred site of the country.

In 1944, G. Caton Thompson discovered a temple of the moon-god in southern Arabia that has over 20 inscriptions bearing the name *Sin*, i.e., the Babylonian moon-god.

The Sabaeans of Arabia were known to forego the image business and just go outside at night and worship the created moon itself. This was the very thing God had warned his people about while they were in that *Sin* wilderness. In Deuteronomy 4:19 they are told not to lift their eyes to heaven and be tempted to worship heavenly creations that were meant simply to be enjoyed and shared with all earthlings. The moon is listed as one of these temptations. The nations, including Arabia, had long ago fallen into this trap. Moon worship was universal there.

This moon-god in Arabia was called by various names, but there is no question that one of those names was *Allah*. More about this name later.

### **How does paganism connect to Islam?**

So, in what sense is the Muslim faith connected to this ancient paganism? Is it fair to enjoin upon Islam a relationship to deceiving demons who are bringing judgment on the Earth? Consider the evidence, weigh it seriously, before your response. The Christian church, as in so many other areas, is divided on this issue. It is not as clear as some want to think. Would you expect it to be?

We talked earlier of the Sabaeans who settled in southern Arabia, today's Yemen. Hear what was said about their religious practices, long before Muhammad:

"The Arabs during the pre-Islamic period used to practice certain things that were included [later ] in the Islamic Sharia. They, for example, they did not marry both a mother and her daughter. They considered marrying two sisters simultaneously to be a most heinous crime. They also censured anyone who married his stepmother, and called him dhaizan. They made the major [hajj] and the minor [umra] pilgrimage to the Ka'aba, performed the circumambulation around the Ka'ba [tawaf], ran seven times between Mounts Safa and Marwa [sa'y], threw rocks and washed themselves after intercourse. They also gargled, sniffed water up into their noses, clipped their fingernails, plucked their hair from their armpits, shaved their pubic hair and performed the rite of circumcision. Likewise, they cut off the right hand of a thief."

— Muhammad Shukri al-Alusi, *Bulugh al-'Arab fi Ahwal al-'Arab*, Vol. 2, p. 122

The Sabaeans are mentioned twice in the Koran. Muhammad says that this southern kingdom was actually the Sheba of Solomonic fame. The well-known queen of same is said to have become monotheistic after being with Solomon in Israel. The one god she clings to, per Muhammad, is Allah.

### **A look at the name "Allah"**

We have all heard by now that *Allah* simply means "god." This statement is meant to calm those of us who want to see something sinister in Islam that could connect to demon spirits. We hear that the Arabians who know our Lord, call that Lord, Allah.

The word itself comes from the Arabic "al-ilah", *the* god. It is like "El" in Hebrew, and is truly a generic term. Also, we must add, it is Arabic, not related to Hebrew.

There seems to be no question that Muhammad wanted his people to worship one god. He himself chose that god out of the pantheon at the Ka'aba. But the fact that there was a pantheon should raise a few eyebrows. Was this chosen god to be merely the best, or the only god? You have often heard Muslims crying out Allahu Akbar . It means that God (Allah) is *greater*. Strange. Should they not be saying that God is greatest, or *the only God*? Greater. Greater than whom, I wonder?

Consider: If there was to be one god, the god to be worshiped by all the people, he would have to be the one already called "god", or "allah." In the context of 7th century Arabia, and in keeping with the widespread worship of the moon, the one true god, the only great god of the day, would have to be the moon god.

To clarify, when we in America talk of the one God, we are referring to the Judaeo- Christian God. We mean Jahweh, or Jesus. The context of this nation demands it. But when Arabs said "God" or "Allah" long centuries ago, they were speaking in reference to the prevailing deity of the time, even though the word itself means just "god."

Therefore, it is not acceptable to write off all Islamic paganism by saying that "Allah" means "god." *Allah, to the Arabs of that day, meant the moon god. The greatest god. Then, per Muhammad, the onlygod.*

One internet source claims that "before Muhammad, Allah was *not* considered the *sole* divinity by Meccans." But he was the creator of the world and the giver of rain. He had some fellow-gods in those days, perhaps his underlings. He even had sons and daughters, 3 of whom were worshipped locally: al-'Uzzā, Manāt and al-Lāt. Muhammad's father's name was 'Abd-Allāh , "the slave of Allāh".

Muhammad seems to have totally transformed Allah for purposes of his own, but the identity of this god was still recognizable to his followers. Arabs could follow him because of the name "Allah". Christians and Jews might be able to get on board based on Muhammad's attempted, but unconvincing, links from his "Allah" to the Bible's "Yahweh." That was his plan, anyway.

### **So who is this "Allah"?**

Like the moon he originally represented,

- He is not male or female.
- He has no children
- He is cold and impersonal
- He is distant
- He is austere

He is created either by the enemy of our souls, or Muhammad, or both. He is not the loving Father of the Bible who had a son that died for the sins of the world.

And, Who is Allah to the Muslim?

Questions begin to line up when digging deeper into Islamic history.

Why was Muhammad's God named after one known to be a pagan deity in his own tribe? Why is Allah never defined in the Koran? Why did Muhammad assume that even pagan Arabs knew who Allah was?

We know the moon-god was *Sin* in other cultures. But his title, if not his name, was *al-ilah* or "the god." Muhammad's job was simply to elevate Al-Ilah or Allah, to the only god, not just the chief one. As one internet source suggests Muhammad's thinking process:

"I am not taking away the Allah you already worship. I am only taking away his wife and his daughters and all the other gods." Muhammad thus attempted to have it both ways. To the pagans, he said that he still believed in the Moon-god Allah. To the Jews and the Christians, he said that Allah was their God too. But both the Jews and the Christians knew better and that is why they rejected his god Allah as a false god."

As for connecting things to Yahweh, the theory in Islam goes that Allah was truly the god of Abraham, but that worship of him became corrupted and took the form of what we see in Arabia before Muhammad came along. Muhammad then just corrected the lies that were told about Him, and elevated Him to top status, even abolishing the worship of heavenly bodies altogether.

The Biblical record has it that Ishmael, the son of Abraham, would be a wild man whose hand would be against everyone and everyone's hand against him. This seems to fit the tribes of Ishmael who did indeed settle in Arabia, who did indeed corrupt the worship of the one true God over the centuries, and who continue to fulfill the description of wild Ishmael to this day by adopting Arabia's pagan then reformed (by Muhammad/Koran) religion.

But Abraham was not promised Arabia by the Lord. There is no connection to Arabia at all by the promised people. They are to inhabit Canaan's land, and it will be known forever as Israel. The original promise covers from the Nile to the Euphrates, a territory that David and Solomon the Jews did indeed possess. Arabia is not within those borders, and to emphasize this more, a queen from that peninsula visited Solomon in all his glory and received his blessing. Her land was Sheba, in Arabia.

### **The moon in Islam today**

The influence of the moon god culture is still felt in Islam. A lunar calendar is used to tell when Ramadan will occur. Islamic months begin and end with a crescent moon. During the Middle Ages, Muslim flags began to wear the sign of the crescent moon. Early Islam knows of no such displays of this symbol, yet it is with us today. Why?

Some say it came by way of the Turks, this crescent. There is a Turkish/Ottoman legend that one Osman, the founder of the Ottoman house, had a dream. Supposedly he saw a moon rising from the breast of a Muslim. The moon became full, then descended into his own breast. A tree then came out of his innards somehow, which grew to cover the whole world. Under the tree the world stood, with the crescent moon dominating it. All of this was several hundred years after the beginning of Islam in the world. But the symbolism cannot be denied. The moon persists as a part of Islamic culture, if not faith.

The Quran (Koran) must be allowed to weigh in on this discussion before we jump to conclusions. In chapter 41, verse 37, the statement is clearly made:

تَعْبُدُونَ إِيَّاهُ كُنْتُمْ إِنْ خَلَقَهُنَّ الَّذِي بِنَهِّ وَأَسْجُدُوا لِلْقَمَرِ وَلَا لِلشَّمْسِ تَسْجُدُوا لَا رُوَالْقَمَ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالنَّهَارُ اللَّيْلُ آيَاتِهِ وَمِنْ

"And of His signs are the night and day and the sun and moon. Do not prostrate to the sun or to the moon, but prostrate to Allah, who created them, if it should be Him that you worship"

The new Allah is not the moon. But he is named after the one who was the moon. The new Allah is not only the greatest of gods. He is the only god now to be worshiped, per the brute force of Muhammad and his followers.

So a concoction, a mixture. As Babylon's mixture centered in Rome, an intriguing combination of pagan thought, Biblical thought, and Muhammad's thoughts.

### **Piecing it all together.**

1. The moon god was prevalent throughout the pagan world in ancient times. Arabia had its own version of this paganism, and in most cases worshipped a male version of the moon deity, as opposed to the highly popular female counterpart in Babylonia and Egypt.
2. Arabia's dominant god, before Muhammad, was Allah, the one true god, known there as the moon god.
3. Muhammad's family worshipped Allah before Islam began.
4. Muhammad chose one god and one only from 360 in the Ka'aba. Allah. The moon god. It was this one he would promote and push to fame. But not as the moon any longer. A new and reformed Allah.
5. Arabians would follow him because of the name Allah with which they were so familiar. But because of statements made in his recitation (Koran), he would also be able to entice Jews and Christians to get on board, as suddenly the god of Arabia was transformed into the god of the people of the Book (Bible). A masterful mix intended to deceive the nations, if not by Muhammad, then by the Devil Himself.

For the many, it worked. Incredible as it may seem, 1/4 of the world accepts these statements as truth to die for. Only the Spirit of God can permeate this hardness of heart. He is working on it, all over the world.