

And The Crosses Broke

How I became a Muslim

From Riyaas Peter to Abdullaah

Translated By

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I was born on the 16th of November 1968 in a devout and practising Christian house, at birth my name was Riyaas Peter which my father had named me. My grandfather at one stage was the general secretary of the Pakistan bible society and my father was at a senior religious position amongst the Christians in Pakistan. My mother was also associated with Christian missionaries and my uncle was also a church minister.

My father had married in his student days and after marriage he focussed on religious studies and after completing his studies he separated from my mother as in no marital relationships, as according to the Christians beliefs wedlock is prohibited for priests and those who are already married abandon this relationship. The reason for this is, in Christianity the understanding for priests and religious leaders is that they are pure and maybe they think the bond of wedlock which is performed with god as the witness is impure!!!

I received my religious education from St. Patricks School and I was admitted into a Roman Catholic institute where I received education to become a priest and alongside this I also learnt missionary work. Further to this based on personal preferences and hobbies I also learnt how to play musical instruments especially the keyboard and harmonium.

I formed a musical group called the rolling stones and on Sundays I would go and sing hymns and play music concerning Jesus in the church and I would write the music to these hymns. As I was the son of a religious Christian minister I had no restrictions that prohibited me from doing anything rather I had full freedom and independence to whatever I wanted

or wished, even if that was drink alcohol, as drinking alcohol is considered to be lawful and pure in Christianity.

I used to love my father a lot (even today I respect him greatly), I cannot remember if I ever lied to my father I would always speak the truth and even according to Christianity one should not be lying to Christian priests as they are saviours and can get your sins forgiven and they are the ones who can take you to paradise.

If I would ever commit a sin I would go to my father and he would say to me your sins are forgiven from the Messiah Christ. He would also say to me your the son of a Christian priest and you need to the religious propagator and hence forgive the peoples sins.

I would ring the church bells before prayer times and would recite the final prayer on the Sundays sermons, and after completing my missionary studies I started to engage in missionary work and started to visit different areas and admonish the people and I would especially encourage the youth to join the missionary work.

I was also a very powerful and orator and speaker, wherever I used to go for talks and lectures in the various churches most of members of my audiences were young people and due to my powerful speeches many of them would join the missionary work.

Just like all the other Christians I was a target of self happiness and arrogance that only Christianity was the true religion and I was lucky to be a Christian as god has chosen me to do his work.

What follows is my long search for the truth

Search for Tranquillity

I would often discuss matters of the religion with my father but whenever I would touch the topic of alterations and contradiction in the bible my father was never able to give me any satisfying or convincing answers and would rather say not to dwell on these things too much as god knows better about them and avoid discussions about the religion otherwise you will become a sinner. He would tell me to concentrate on those affairs that will help spread Christianity throughout the whole world and get the people to believe that Jesus is the true son of god and hence attain success and paradise.

Many questions concerning Christianity would arise in my head but no Christian scholar or priest was able to answer them for me so much so even my father had no answers. My father was never able to convince me and on the other hand I could not really discuss these issues with him as I would be sinning as he had previously told me.

I however kept my search ongoing and if any new issue or point concerning Christianity arose I would research it further in order to learn its reality. As I mentioned previously I had full freedom and independence and also access to the worldly goods but I would always feel even though I had

everything I still felt an emptiness and as if something was lost by the way of peace and a sort of be-wilderness was attached to my heart.

I would spend a lot of time thinking and pondering about these affairs and about this be-wilderness and emptiness I was feeling and would think if these worldly things cannot bring tranquillity and peace to my heart what would?

As part of my duty I would have to ring the church bells and it would so happen when my time would come to ring the bells there was a mosque right opposite our church and coincidentally the caller would be calling the people to the prayer ie saying the adhaan.

Upon often hearing the words of the adhaan it would send me into an unusual state and what was even more unusual was that I never understood any of the words so much so that I would be mesmerised and would forget to ring the church bells and just listen carefully to the words of the adhaan.

I don't know if this was just the words of the adhaan or the awakening of the inner Abdullah in me but all I know I would feel this amazing peace and tranquillity upon hearing the adhaan and an unknown power was pulling me. I would also sometimes go and stand outside the mosque and see the Muslims pray.

My father would often shout at me and I would have to face his anger due to my wondering to the mosque. I remember I would often stand below the big cross in the church and would pray that Oh God give me peace and guide me to the right path and finally one day my day of peace arrived.

The Search For The Truth

It was a Sunday and we were preparing for worship and as mentioned before I would sing hymns in praise of Jesus and after worship part of my duty was to also do the concluding prayer. My father asked me to ring the church bells to call the Christian worshippers to church and at the time I used to be proud that God had given birth to me in such a religion that God himself had sent his son for our guidance.

I hung the cross around my neck and headed to the church and started to ring the bells and then stood below the big cross and led the prayer and said oh Christ the saviour put into the hearts of people that they come to goodness as you are the one who knows the reality of the hearts, then I made a sign of the cross with my hands and sat down.

The people used to respect me a lot as I was the son of a priest and a future church minister and they would often kiss my hands and I would put my hand on their heads and pray for them.

When the people arrived my father also came and the people with respect stood up and my father made his way to the pulpit and asked the people to be seated and signalled to me to sing the hymns. My father gave a sermon about the crucifixion and how Jesus died for the sins of the world and that Jesus will forgive the sins of mankind.

This was a very strange day in my life as my father was giving the sermon I kept on asking myself questions which were just confusing my

mind. In the end I made the final prayer for the service and returned home with my father and yet another day was added to my uneasiness.

A Recurring Question in My Mind

If Jesus Christ was the son of God why did he die as we believed God was ever living and will remain even after the destruction of the earth so in the same manner the messiah should also remain forever? So the worldly leaders put him on the cross and yet he was not able to do anything nor was God able to save his son, so why was this?

I asked my father this question and he got very angry and hostile and in a strong tone he said to me Peter repent don't say such blasphemous things and don't reject things from the bible, and I pray that Jesus Christ saves you from misguidance and keeps you on the straight path and get yourself baptised again today and beware of saying such things in the future in front of other people.

After hearing my father speak in a strong and tone and having his voice raised I began to think to myself well maybe it's me who is wrong so I returned and started to read the bible.

Reading Of The Bible

The same uneasiness and emptiness remained within me even when I was reading the bible and whilst I was reading I came across the following verse from Johns book,

John 15

²⁶ “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16

¹ “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

After reading these verses from the gospel of John I went to my father and told him about these verses that Jesus Christ said he has to go away for the advocate to come and he will guide you onto the truth, so I asked my father has anyone come after Jesus Christ as he told us in the bible.

My father said no, no one has come however an Arab did come whose name was Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee Was-Sallam) and he claimed to be a Prophet but really he was a magician. He would speak in such a magic way that the people would just follow him and he called his religion Islam and his followers are Muslims and he spread his religion by magic and by the sword and those who never believed in him he killed.

He would say he is a Prophet of God and so believe in me or otherwise die. My father went onto say Islam is in essence a religion of fear and ignorance and the Muslims are immoral and oppress their women and burn their opposers and this is what has been written about the Muslims by the historians and authors.

His father went onto say our religion has suffered immensely due to Islam and the greatest enemies of the Christians are the Muslim. So I asked

my father I would like to research Islam. My father said to me Peter I am advising you if you want to research then research every religion or practise but do not research Islam and do not go anywhere near the Muslims as these people are magicians and they will do magic on you and they will separate you from your forefathers religions.

I listened to my father very carefully but my longing for the truth had increased dramatically and even more. I had already researched various other religions and decided to research Islam without the knowledge of my father in order to come closer to the truth. So now that I had decided to do my research the next questions was how was I going to do it.

From the Darkness to the Light

Now I had deeply engrossed myself in the research of Islam and the more I researched the more my understanding of it was that it was a religion more closer to the truth in terms of intellect and common sense. After my readings into history I became even more closer to knowing that I had immersed myself in realms of darkness for a long time. All that which I had read about Islam was mere propaganda from the Christian scholars.

Further I increased my readings into the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee Was-Sallam) life and his teachings and I was just shocked and astonished that contrary to what the Christians scholars had written and he was in essence a mercy to mankind and a well wisher to all of the creation

and especially the status women were given in Islam you would not find any example of this prior to him.

After researching Islamic books I thought about meeting a scholar to seek their opinions and thoughts about Islam.

A Spiritual Gathering

One day in search of the truth I wandered into Gulshan Iqbaal an area in Karachi and I saw a large crowd of people heading in one particular direction, these people were wearing turbans so I asked a person what was happening and he replied there was a spiritual gathering.

So in search of the truth I also accompanied them. When I entered the place of worship I saw 2 men standing one of them was standing with his hands folded, eyes closed and was swaying and saying something. When the singing finished a man with a long beard gave a speech. When the speech had finished I somehow through the people got to the speaker and shook hands with him and introduced myself saying my name is Riyaas Peter and I am Christian and I am researching Islaam. The man was very happy and said to me we will give you any information related to Islaam.

I asked what kind of religion is Islaam? He replied Islaam is a truth based religion and emphasises on humanity and brotherhood. I asked him who was Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam). He replied, Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) was noor (ie light) disguised as a man.

I asked what is this Noor? He said, Noor is Allaah ie a supreme being/ God and Muhammad is a part of that Noor. So I said according to you Muhammad is God, he replied no he is not God but a prophet of God but God used some of his Noor with Muhammad and made him superior above all mankind and other prophets and he sent his Noor in the form on man so people know the truth and be redeemed.

I asked what was the man singing, he replied he was not singing he was reciting a poem in love of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam). I then requested his leave and returned home, when I got home I began to think is this what really Islaam is or are these people also misguided like we are. As there was in essence no difference between them and us because these people perform actions in their mosques what we do in our churches so I thought there was definitely something amiss here.

We also sings hymns in praise of Jesus Christ and these people also sing poems in love of their prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) and similarly a Christian sect also says Jesus was God and these Muslims also believe Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) was Noor from the Noor of Allaah so there was really no difference at all.

This meeting confused me further and did not open any avenues for me and I continued praying for guidance. So I thought just as there are various Christian sects there must be different sects amongst the Muslims. So I decided I needed to get to those people who showed a true picture of Islaam and I also thought I must research into the different Muslims sects and groups, so my search continued.

Visiting Madrassah Daar ul-Quraan

In search of the truth one day I visited Madrassah Daar ul-Quraan and met a Maulana. I told him I was researching Islaam so he said to me would you please come back on Thursday and I will take you to a place where you will see examples of people being living examples of Islaam and you will also get to know the real Islaam and real Muslims and if you spend 3 days with them you will get to know true Islaam.

So what does a blind man need? Two eyes so I went to them on Thursday and they told me not to tell anyone I was Christian and at this time there were alot of other Scholars there. Everyone seemed to have bags and sleeping bags as if they were going on a very long journey, I could not resist and asked where are you guys going with all of these travelling things they replied we need to go very far and they replied when the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) would go to propagate the religion they would take things they would need. So finally we left the Madrassah.

In the Tableegi Markaz

Our journey finished at a big mosque and there were many people of all ages there and there was a lot of travel packs and at a first glance it looked like a travellers lodge so I asked them what is this place and they said this is the Tableeghi Markaz and people leave in the path of Allaah some people go

for 3 days and some for 40 days and some for 4 months and there are some who have dedicated their whole lives to this.

So I asked do these people go and spread Islaam to the Non Muslims he replied no as the Muslims need the dawah greatly and some of the people that come here have come to learn and we teach the people the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam).

Then it was the time for prayer so I left and waited outside and returned when they had prayed and I was told there would be a talk so please listen attentively. So I listened very carefully but I never understood anything nor did anything make sense, there was nothing concrete and everything that was said was from their elders, later on everyone ate. The Maulana said to me there is a group going out tomorrow in the way of Allaah and you should come with us so I said if I have time I will come and I returned home.

At home I kept on thinking these people were strange Muslims as they were calling their own people to Islaam where as all the other religions call people from other religions to their religion. Secondly they kept on referring to what their elders had said or they heard things from their elders so in essence everything about Islaam had been conveyed to the Muslims from the elders and this was clearly naivety because the people were just acting upon things they had heard.

So I came to the conclusion that these people were very naive as they would just adhere to things they had heard. May God give them intelligence

to research and then act upon the research and if they don't they will be continuing upon errors and an increasing their loss.

When I began my quest for the truth I realised Islaam has such a force that it pulls you towards it and the more I researched the more my quest to find the truth increased. During some missionary work I had to go to Rawalpindi and I came across an Islamic research centre and they gave me some books of Ahmad Raza Khan Bareilwi and they said they were the books of a really great scholar.

So I began reading these books and researching them but they were also unable to quench my thirst for the truth and felt from the authors book that he just intended to make himself famous and well known and secondly his books contained the same stuff about Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) being Noor and I have talked about this in the previous pages.

A Gathering of Dhikr

My next step of my journey in quest for the truth was a visit to a gathering of Dhikr. One evening I went for a walk in Rawalpindi and I happen to walk past a mosque and I heard very loud noises and so I went to have a look and I saw a large group of people had their eyes closed and were saying loudly Allaahu Allaahu so I asked a person who was there what are they doing and he said they are doing the Dhikr of Allaah.

After sometime their Dhikr had finished so I approached them and asked what were you guys doing and they replied we were doing the Dhikr of

Allaah as our spiritual guide has told to do a lot of Dhikr of Allaah so much so that our heartbeat and our saying of Allaahu coincide. So I asked them the name of their spiritual guide and would it be possible to meet him. They replied his name is Gohar Shahi and resides in Sindh.

I told them I was a Christian and am researching Islaam and they leapt with joy and pushed me to meet their religious leader and go to their religious centre in Sindh as I would really learn the true Islaam there. It felt like I had heard the name of Gohar Shahi but I could not recollect exactly where I had heard it, nonetheless I promised them I would visit there centre in Kautaree Sindh.

The same day in Rawalpindi I had a lecture in the church concerning the miracles of Jesus Christ but that day my speech lacked all passion and fervour. The congregation felt the lack of passion from my speech so the Father of the church approached me and said Peter maybe you don't feel too well today so I just said no I'm fine.

The next day I had to return back and a lot of the people from the church came and the father came to depart me from the train station and they gave me a lot of flowers which I gave to the people anyway and finally the boarded the train for Karachi.

The Spiritual Centre

On my return to Karachi I got off at Kautaree in order to meet Gohar Shahi. This name kept on coming in my mind but I was still unable to recall

where I remembered it from. So I asked around and got to the Spiritual centre and there were a lot of people there and upon seeing me they were somewhat amazed as I was dressed as a Christian's priest. So I asked them I've come to meet Gohar Shahi so I was led to a room and then after a further few minutes I was led to another room where there were a lot of people sitting.

In the middle there was a throne and a man was sitting, upon seeing him I instantly recognised him and thought, Oh is that Gohar Shahi. I realised that Mr Gohar Shahi was my father's very good friend and he had already been to our church 2 times before.

Upon seeing me he hugged me and asked in what capacity I had come, so I told him I was on my way to Karachi and thought I would drop by, because I was unable to ask him anything related to Islam as I feared if I did he would tell my father about what I had discussed with him and where as so far my research into Islam was hidden from my father. So Gohar Shahi introduced me to the people who were sitting here.

I have to add here I do not consider Gohar Shahi to be a Muslim as he has said in a talk in our church in 1997 that he has seen Eesaa (Alayhis-Sallaam) in a dream and he told me to tell the people who believe in me that they were upon the correct path and to continue worshipping God and this is how they would achieve salvation.

So I stayed there for one day and then returned home I was looked after very well like as if I was a VIP. So far I had not met any scholar who

had given me any information which had really convinced me and so I continued my research via the Islamic books but I was still seeking a Muslim scholar who could tell me a lot more about this religion

So far my research had led me to know that there were various Islamic sects but which sect had beliefs that were really the true beliefs of Islaam. All of the sects would say they are correct and there was the correct way but none of them convinced me with any evidences or proofs. I continued to visit different Islamic centres and institutes but all of them were associated in some way or another with personalities.

My Visit To Jamia Binnoriyyah

One day I went to Jamia Binnoriyyah where I met a mufti I learnt a lot from him and after our meeting some tea was ordered. Everyone had very nice clean cups but my cup was very old and dirty and worthy to be thrown away so I excused myself and said I don't drink tea. I could not resist the temptation in asking the mufti a question that in Islaam is there prohibition with regards to eating with the people of the book. He replied it is not prohibited but there are rulings with regards using separate utensils.

So I said according to my research Islaam is a nice peaceful loving religion which prohibits any superiority to any background and colour and you have just given me a very dirty and old cup as if you were telling me people from other religions are humanly inferior, further more you did not even bother to shake my hand. Just upon hearing this the Mufti went

haywire and all angry in a huff and puff and said have you come to learn about Islaam or debate with us would you kindly please leave.

Compared to the other incidences this one affected me the most and it upset me very much so much so I thought I might as well remain upon my religion what's the point searching but Allaah saved me and my love for Islaam increased and my quest grew even more.

The Meditation Hall

I found out there was a meditation hall and so I went and met Maqsood Ilaahee. I saw the people sitting very quietly and they were meditating with Yoga whilst inhaling their breadths. At the front there was a man sitting and people would approach him shake and kiss his hand and he would in turn put his hand on their head and ask them to sit down and would say to them free your mind and just think of Allaah.

So I asked Maqsood Ilaahee what are these people doing and who is that man he replied that man is a very big saint/holy man and he is teaching the people how to feel Allaah in their inner selves. I said to him I want to enquire about Islaam and he replied just look at the holy man he is Islaam and whoever understands him and pledges their allegiance to him will enter into Islaam completely. I remained there for a short while and then returned home.

Yet again upon returning home I thought this was again very similar to Christianity as the people in the church also do the same. I further

thought there was a great deal of similarities between the holy man and a Christian priest, with regards to both of them putting their hands on people's heads and the people kissing their hands, there was just too many similarities.

My anxiety increased further my heart was testifying that Islaam was the true religion but I could not find anything to back this up and this contradiction worries me and nor had I to date met any good scholar who could give me the correct guidance and nothing was making sense.

I got to the stage that whenever I saw a man with a beard I would ask him about Islaam trying to increase my information and I was really getting to the stage where I said to myself that if I don't find a good scholar who can help me and give me good information I would abandon my research on Islaam, however Allaah had other things planned from me.

And Finally I Found The Truth

In the same days I found out about another Islamic Centre by the name of Jaamia tul-Ehsaan, so I phoned them and told them I was researching Islaam and I would like to come and speak to you and the person on the phone said you can come at any time you want.

The next day I went and found the office to be very simple and there was a Maulana sitting with an orange beard. I said my name is Riyaas Peter and I am a Christian and I am researching into Islaam and I was the one who phoned you yesterday. The Maulana was very happy and very joyful and

shook my hand with great firmness and jovially and said my name is Qaaree khaleel ur-Rehmaan Javed and I am the one in charge of this centre and I am very happy to meet you and whatever you want to ask about Islaam please ask without any hesitation and so I started.

Question: The Christians believe Jesus is the son of God because he was born without a father, what do you have to say about this.

Answer: Eesaa (Alayhis-Salaam) is a Prophet of Allaah and he created him with his power without a father as Allaah is the all powerful and the creator just as Allaah created Adam (Alayhis-Salaam) without a father or mother. So if the Christians say Eesaa is the son of God because he was born without a father then what will you say about Adam who was born without a father or mother?

Question: The Christians believe Jesus was crucified because he gave his life for the sins of the people, what does Islaam think of this?

Answer: Eesaa (Alayhis-Salaam) was not crucified rather Allaah raised him up whilst he was alive and Allaah made someone appear to look like Eesaa and it was he who was crucified and this is what is written in the Quraan

Question: Do the Muslims believe in the Holy book of Christians ie the bible?

Answer: It is compulsory for every Muslim to believe in the Taurah, The Psalms of David, and the Bible.

Question: The Bible in different times has been subject to change as the same happened to the Quraan.

Answer: Allaah himself has taken the task of preserving the Quraan no alterations have ever been done nor can anyone do any such thing. From the time of revelation till this day every single word of the Quraan is preserved. The Quraan is from the books that is memorised by millions of Muslims so Allaah has preserved it in the heart of the Muslims so then how can it be changed and this is a sign of Islaam being a True Religion.

Question: The Christians believe if you confess to your sins to the father he can get your sins forgiven so the Muslims have a similar concept.

Answer: Only Allaah has the right to forgive peoples sins and no one from even the biggest scholar or religious leader can get your sins to be forgiven.

Question: Was Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) the Prophet after Eesaa (Alayhis-Salaam) and if so what did he order the people with?

Answer: Yes Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) is the final Prophet which is mentioned in all of the Heavenly books he told us, "Oh people worship Allaah and Allaah is one and he has no partner he is not anyone's father nor is he anyone's son and I Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) am his final Messenger. So worship Allaah alone and abandon idol worship and he also told mankind about humanity. So alcohol was

declared to be unlawful, prohibited fornication, ordered us to respect parents and encouraged brotherhood.

Question: The Muslims have many different sects, which one is correct and follows true Islaam and those who do how do we recognise them and what has Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) said about sects?

Answer: The Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) prohibited the making of sects and he said do not divide into sects after me however this did happen and those who are correct from amongst them are those who accept the Quraan and Hadeeth and they act upon this and they do not follow personalities. So this what we follow and this is what we say to the people.

Question: There is a muslim sect that says that Muhammad is a part of Allaah ie that Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) is nor ie light so is he also nor according to you.

Answer: Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) is Allaah's slave and messenger and he was a man Allaah is one and without any partner and those who associate partners with him commit an act of disbelief and therefore saying the Messenger of Allaah is noor is totally wrong.

For the length of time I remained with Qaaree Jawed he answered all of my questions from the Quraan and Hadeeth and he answered my questions with great love and care. All of the other scholars who were also present there also met me with great love and respect as if I was one of their own. I never saw anyone praising people they just were all normal and very

respectful towards each other. I asked their leave and went home and upon leaving Qaaree Jawed said if you need to know anything about Islaam then you can come at anytime.

Today I was feeling so much peace and tranquillity whatever I wanted to find I had found it as if I had found the truth and my heart testified that this is the true religion. So now I decided to make the proper comparison between Christianity and Islaam. The first point that came to my mind was the birth of Jesus Christ ie he was born without a father but how about Adam he was born without any parents, so if the Christians think Jesus should be the son of God what should be do about Adam.

Further more we believe Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world and we do not accept Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) whereas the Muslims believe In Eesaa (Alayhis salaam) as a prophet of Allaah and say Eesaa was not crucified. We change the bible everyday but it would still remain the word of God but on the contrary a single change has not happened in the Quraan to this day. The Christians to this day have never ever memorised the bible whereas the Muslims are always memorising the Quraan.

Our religion makes distinctions between differed coloured people and the rich and poor so much so they even have different places of worship. Whereas Islaam is totally different and encourages brotherhood and love between all of us. We make our women as nuns and oppress them however Islaam raises the station of women.

We raise the status of the father above and beyond the position of God and the bible. And believe the father can forgive us of our sins whereas the Muslims say only Allaah has the right to forgive sins. The Muslims only give importance to the Quraan and the ahadeeth of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) so after pondering on all of these points the only conclusion I can come to was that Islaam was the true religion.

So now I started to think if I myself was sinning how would I help forgive other peoples sins. I had spent my whole life sinning how would I achieve salvation. All of these thoughts began working my mind like a storm and a major upheaval in my thought processes and all of this just engulfed me and thought I must seek forgiveness from Allaah and that I should accept Islaam.

After a long search and constantly thinking about Islaam I finally decided to accept Islaam so that I could protect my sinful life from punishment. The words of Jesus Christ began to come into my mind that *when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*

After Jesus Christ, Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam) came and showed people the way of the truth and he testified he would tell the people what would be conveyed to him from Allaah. I decided to accept Islaam with those people who act on the Quraan and Hadeeth and also encourage others to do also. So I phoned Qaaree Jawed and told him I wanted to accept Islaam.

The Qaaree informed me I would have to face many trials and tribulations. I replied I will deal with every difficulty to accept the truth and he replied it is of great pleasure that you want to accept Islaam. So he asked me to come in two days time so that I had a little more time to think.

I waited patiently waiting another 48 hours was just so difficult and painful and every second was just mounting up and I was afraid of the seconds of my sinful life adding up. I just felt so helpless and yet felt this unusual feeling. Then that time had come.

My Acceptance of Islaam

It was Sunday the 16th August 1998, I made my way to Jaametul-Ehsaan and Qaaree Jawed was waiting for me he asked me are you still content with your decision and I replied yes. Qaaree Jawed said to Shaikh Thanullah as you are going to the Jamia in Faisalabaad I would wish that Riyaas accepts Islaam with you. So he began to recite the kalimah

Laa Ilaaha illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah

**There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is his
Messenger.**

Upon reading the kalimah I felt the cross broke and also felt as if Eesaa (Alayhis-Salaam) also broke the cross and as if a light had entered my heart and all of my sins had washed away and I had become pure as if I was

reborn. Then The Shaikh informed me to worship Allah and not to hold any partners with him and follow the teaching of Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhee was-Sallam). Alcohol was forbidden and stay away from those things which were unlawful.

The Shaikh then said to me I was like as if I was born again and may Allaah give you steadfastness and you should be called Abdullah and then all of the teachers hugged me and congratulated me in becoming a Muslim. Qaaree Jawed said to me from now on you are our brother and we will share your happiness and your grief and then all of us ate and thereafter I departed.

Meeting My Father After Accepting Islaam

My father was not at home and I was thinking whether I should tell my father about this new change in my life as I had never lied to him before and so decided I must tell him the truth. When my father returned I gathered courage and said to my father, father I have accepted Islaam and I have become a Muslim. Even though he was my father and he had that love for me he became outraged and closed all the doors and windows and said to me slowly peter what have you done?

I corrected him and said my name was Abdullah, he replied you are misguided and the Muslims have worked their magic on you, so I explained to him further that it was not the case and I had researched myself and found Islaam to be a true religion and hence accepted it.

He said you are misguided and you have committed a major sin by leaving the religion of your forefathers, you have shamed me and Jesus Christ will never forgive you. You have not done anything majorly bad so there is still time to repent and return to Christianity. I said father I searched for the truth and when I found it I accepted it and father you know Muhammad is the Prophet of Allaah and Jesus gave glad tidings of him and so you should also accept Islaam.

Upon saying that it was the first time my father had hit me so bad and warned me that I would have no share of the wealth and all of my luxuries would be taken away. I replied you may do whatever you wish this is my final decision I cannot leave Islaam. He replied the Christian community will decide what we do with you and up until then you cannot leave the house. My father stopped talking to me. I kept on praying to Allaah to help me and to guide my father to the truth.

The Decision Of the Christian Community

A whole week passed and I was finally taken to the church like a criminal and then the president of the Christian community in Pakistan gave read his decision. Fathers son Riyaas Peter has accepted Islaam and left Christianity so we are expelling Riyaas Peter from the Christian community and Christianity and no Christian should or can associate with him and the father should exclude him from his inheritance.

Then my father announced what the president had said and also said Riyaas is not my son anymore, he further instructed all the Christians to abandon me and to have no association with me. I replied I can leave everything but I cannot leave Islaam now.

Finally I Was Free

I left the church and had no idea what to do and just walked across into the mosque opposite and prayed to Allaah and asked for his help and assistance that he was my only saviour. Now I only just had Eemaan and nothing else in this whole wide world. I remembered an old friend and spent a few days with him.

Later I phoned Qaaree Khaleel ur-Rehman at the Jaamia and told him I wanted to learn the prayer so he put me in contact with Shaikh Dawood and Shaikh Zulfikar. So I went to Jaamia Rehmaaniyyah and all the people met me with great love and affection and the Shaikhs began to teach me. When I read the first prayer in my life I felt as if someone had thrown me into a sea of peace and tranquillity.

Another Test

The following week I prayed my first jumuah prayer in Jaamia Ehsaan and went to see my friend. When some extremist Christians severely attacked me and they kept on asking me to leave Islaam but how could I

leave this great religion after I had just found it after a long time. They continued to beat me and burnt my body with cigarettes and they beat me very bad but my friend eventually saved me. They kept on saying to me that hitting and beating me was a means of reward for them.

After recovering I went to Jaamia Rehmaaniyyah and all of the teachers encouraged me and gave me confidence, they helped me immensely and advised me with patience. They told me of the incidences in the lives of the companions, they told of the incident of Bilaal al-Habashee (Radhiallahu Anhu) that when he would be beaten he would keep on saying One, One ie Allah is one Allah is one. I prayed for the guidance of my friend who had helped me.

Meeting My New Friends

One day I was praying the jumuah prayer in Jaamia Rehmaaniyyah and there was a talk by Shaikh Abdullah Naasir Rehmaani, I noticed his simplicity and I noted that everything he said was said with references to the Quraan and Hadeeth. After the talk it was question and answer time and he answered all of the questions with again references to the Quran and Hadeeth.

Later I met Shaikh Abdullah Naasir Rehmaani and was amazed and shocked that such a big scholar and just so simple in nature and personality as he has spent his whole life in spreading Islaam. I gained a lot of inspiration from him and I decided to spend the rest of my life spreading Islaam.

I wanted to take the message to the youth about Islaam and answer the Christian missionaries as they were fooling and lying to the people and also expose their abhorrent actions. I established Markaz al-Furqaan al-Islaami for the propagation of Islaam.

I pray to Allaah the almighty to make me successful and aid me.
Ameen