

Dear Reader,

All religions are basically the same—right?

Is there an equally simple answer to this seemingly simple question? No. Plain. Definitely simple, as Adelaide Rose or Daniela Rose would say.

I have studied and examined many of the religions of the world in order to answer my question, contrasting and comparing each religion's representative to Earth.

For instance, Yeshua (Jesus) versus Mohammad.

What Did Yeshua (Jesus) Claim?

Yeshua claimed to be the Son of God—God in the flesh, one part of a triune God.

He claimed to have existed from the beginning: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14).

He came to Earth from an extradimensional space in the form of a child with no genetic earthly father. After he grew up, he healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons, set people free, and fed the hungry, among many other miracles.

During His thirty-three years of earthly life, He fulfilled every single Messianic prophecy recorded in the Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament), answering the question: who is the Messiah—humanity's redeemer?

Mathematically speaking, this accomplishment alone would be impossible for any human to fulfill. Thus, Jesus must be something more than a mere human or prophet.

What Did Muhammad Claim?

Muhammad claimed to be a prophet—nothing more, nothing less.

He was born in 570 CE—the year of the elephant—in the city of Mecca. Orphaned at six years old, Muhammad’s uncle Abu Talib and his Aunt Fatimah raised him. As a young man, he faithfully worked as a merchant.

Yeshua’s (Jesus’s) Story Continued.

One night, Judas Iscariot, Yeshua’s disciple, betrayed Him. Alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, Yeshua pleaded with His Father, “Let this cup pass from me.”

In the end, He surrendered His will to His Father’s, which required Him to carry an old Roman cross to Golgotha, where He was crucified. Before He died, He cried, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

At that moment, as the curtain separating the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple was torn from top to bottom, removing the separation between God and man, Jesus cried, “It is finished!”

But the Messiah had not finished His final task.

After being buried in a borrowed tomb, on the third day, Jesus defeated death and the grave. Coming back to life, He appeared to His disciples, telling them, “My kingdom is not of this world.”

Yes. Yeshua was an alien in some peoples’ vernacular or an extradimensional being in other peoples’ perception.

He defied time and space, ascending to heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God the Father—Yahweh—where He prays for His children day and night and

promises to return for them on one highly anticipated day known as the Rapture or the great escape.

Even on the copyright date of this novel, Yeshua lives.

Muhammad's Story Continued.

In Mecca, Mohammad married Aisha when she was six or seven years old. He consummated the marriage after his pilgrimage from Mecca to Medina, when Aisha had reached the age of nine or ten years old.

At times, he would seclude himself in a mountain cave named Hira for several nights of prayer.

At the age of forty, Muhammad reported that the angel Gabriel had visited him inside a dark cave and gave him his first revelation from Allah that became the basis for the Qur'an and the foundation of Islam.

After this experience, Muhammad became deeply disturbed, believing that he might be demon-possessed. Three years later, and after contemplating suicide, Muhammad started preaching his cave visions publicly, proclaiming that "God is one." Not that God is a triune being, as Christianity had taught.

He told his followers how to work their way to Paradise—the garden of pleasure, the presumptive home of Allah.

By 630 AD he had unified most of Arabia under a single religion—a new Abrahamic religion, a post-Judaic and post-Christian faith—before he died in 632 AD.

In 630 AD, after many wars and conflicts, Mohammad marched on Mecca with ten thousand Muslim converts and seized control of the city.

He gave amnesty to some of his enemies for past offences, except for some men and women found guilty of

murder or disrupting the peace. Most Meccans converted to Islam, and Mohammad destroyed all the statues of Arabian gods in and around the Kaaba.

According to most reports collected by Ibn Ishaq and al-Azraqi, Mohammad spared frescoes of Mary and Yeshua, but others suggest that he erased all images of Yeshua.

A few months after his farewell pilgrimage to Mecca, Muhammad became ill with fever.

Resting on his wife's lap, Muhammad died Monday, June 8, 632, at the age of sixty-three. After asking his wife to dispose of his last worldly goods—seven coins—he spoke his final words, “O Allah, to Ar-Rafiq Al-A’la—exalted friend in heaven.

Are Yeshua and Muhammad the same in mission, persona, and deity?

Yeshua claimed to be the Messiah.

Muhammad claimed to be a prophet who was not sure if his visions were inspired by evil or good.

If Yeshua and Muhammad are not the same in mission, persona, and claims of deity, how could both Yeshua and Muhammad lead their followers to the same goal: the same God, the same state of eternity—heaven?

They could not.

Plain.

Definitely simple.

Are Allah and Yahweh the same God?

Yahweh

We have spoken about the differences between Yeshua and Muhammad. Let's explore the major difference between Allah and Yahweh.

Would you agree that America has one president? Of course you would. But what if I tell you the president's name is Bugs Bunny, but you believe the president's name is Donald Duck?

It is true: we both believe America has only one president.

And it is also true that we profoundly disagree on the identity—the character, the essence—of the President of the United States of America.

Yes, followers of the Ways (non-secular Christians) and Muslims agree about the existence of God, but there is a clear disagreement on the character of this God.

The characters of Yahweh and Allah lie at opposite ends of the spectrum. Yahweh is a personal God who wants a personal relationship with His creation—humans—and thus willingly made a huge sacrifice to secure this opportunity, the sacrifice of His only begotten son, Yeshua, as payment for the consequence of human imperfection.

This act solidifies Yahweh's claim, "God is love."

Allah

Allah is not a relational being. He is not personal. He does not claim that his essence defines true love, a.k.a. sacrifice. Thus, he has never made any overtures of sacrifice to bridge the gap between fallen humanity and his claimed state of perfection.

Muslims must earn their way to paradise which literally translates to *gardens of pleasure*.

Yes, some humans have gone to extreme lengths to earn their passage to place of pleasure where male martyrs are rewarded with seventy-two virgins.

And this process of earning of one's salvation is the major link between traditional Catholicism and Islam—the Bahira-link, as I call it.

Of course, for the Catholic believer, their soul will either go to heaven, hell or purgatory, depending on their behavior on Earth. But can a dead human make themselves live again by good works?

I doubt it.

As a medical doctor, I've never seen a dead patient perform CPR on themselves, someone else—an advocate—performs CPR on their behalf.

While I have only explored the three Abrahamic religions in *Orphan Tree and the Vanishing Skeleton Key*, all proposed pathways to God—the Creator of the universe—are not equal or the same.

This same exercise can be completed with any religion.

Compare and contrast. Search until you find the Truth, not tradition or culture. Your future depends upon this quest.

Be brave,
J. Nell Brown