

JESUS-BASHING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEREAFTER

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.” [Lk 3:21-22]

*Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) was the Nazi dictator and Chancellor of the German Third Reich during the Second World War. Before coming to power in March 1933 through dubious manipulations of the democratic process, he had been jailed for treason for five years. While in prison, he wrote a book, **Mein Kampf** [My Struggle or My Battle] in which he claimed that human beings are unequal on the basis of physical attributes. Highest in rank were the German **Aryans**, that is Caucasians (whites) with blond hair and blue eyes. At the bottom, he ranked Jews, Poles, Russians, Czechs and Gypsies. Black people were not ranked at all.*

*To make the point, Hitler’s Germany hosted the 1936 Summer Olympic Games. Then, out of the blues came Jesse Owens, a black American athlete, and the son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave from Africa. He stunned Hitler and his supremacist theory by winning 4 gold medals, including that of “the fastest man in the world” [100 metres dash]. Hitler had come to the stadium to shake the hand of an **Aryan** but he was too dazed to shake Jesse’s hand! He left in shame and disgrace and that was the beginning of his fall. In 1945, he committed suicide to avoid capture by forces of “inferior” races from Russia and the West!*

As we enter the Millennium when most believers expect the return of Jesus Christ as King and Judge [Matt. 25; 31-46], there appears to be an increase in the wave of “Jesus-bashing.” In every communication medium, satanic forces, masquerading as researchers and intellectuals, are mounting rostrums to “pontificate” that (among others) (1) Jesus is only a human being and no more; (2) Jesus never called himself the Son of God but Son of man; (3) the Bible has been tampered with by successive editors and translators to make him the Son of God; and (4) God has no Son and the doctrine of the Trinity is false.

Jesus had warned us, while He was on earth that “many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many... but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” [Matt. 24:11, 13]. I am not here to defend Jesus because He can defend Himself. Rather, I want to use testimonies of His recent appearances to a Sikh and a Moslem to strengthen the faith of those who are waiting for His Second Coming. That is the subject of today’s lesson.

1. Why these cases?

From the days of His Resurrection, Jesus has appeared to so many believers all over the world. Christians may have an understanding at various levels of Jesus, the Trinity, etc., but they have no problem with the doctrine. Therefore, any evidence from believers can easily be dismissed as “self-fulfilling.” That is why I decided to go to Asia, a continent which is the home of transcendental meditation and ancient religions, where Christianity is in the minority. As Jesus Himself has said, “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached *in all the world for a witness unto all nations*, and then shall the end come” [Matt. 24:14].

2. Jesus visits a Sikh family: Sadhu Sundar Singh

{Based on Phyllis Thompson’s *Sadhu Sundar Singh* (Carlisle, U.K.: OM Publishing, 1992)}

Sundar Singh (1889-1929) came from a famous Sikh family in Northern India. While his mother concentrated on his spiritual instruction in the *Granth*, the Sikh’s holy book, his father ensured that young Sundar had the best secular education that was available in the then India of the early 20th Century. In view of the latter, he had had to mix with children from other backgrounds in the British-established schools. Nevertheless, the Sikhs, Hindus and Moslems were united in their contempt for Christians who came from the lowest classes in a fully entrenched caste system. His mother took him also to Hindu temples to worship and by the time he was seven years old, he knew the Hindu *Bhagavad Gita* by heart. His mother’s ambition was for Sundar to become a *Sadhu*, an itinerant holy man who dedicates his life to the service of God through poverty, self-denial, solitude and holiness. They are venerated in the East.

Sundar hated Christianity and everything connected with it. When Christian evangelists came to preach in his school, he organized his colleagues to stone them. The school curriculum required him to do Bible studies but it was against his will. He was determined to oppose it, including burning one of the Gospels, because he believed that everything in the book was false. At 14(1903), his dear mother died, followed by that of his elder brother a few months later. He became frustrated and planned to take his life. He challenged God to reveal His true self to him, failing which he would throw himself under the Ludhiana *Express* train.

The deadline he had given to God came. He woke up early (around 3 am), went for his ceremonial bathe (done by Hindus and Sikhs before worship), and returned to his room. For the last time, he knelt down and prayed fervently for God to reveal Himself to him. *Nothing happened*. In less than an hour’s time, the train would come. Let’s hear the story in his own words:

I remained till about half past four, praying and waiting and expecting to see Krishna or Budha, or some other Avatar of the Hindu religion; they appeared not, but a light was shining in the room. I opened the door to see where it came

from, but all was dark outside. I returned inside, and the light increased in intensity and took the form of a globe of light above the ground, and in this light there appeared, not the form I expected, but the living Christ whom I had counted as dead. To all eternity I shall never forget his glorious and loving face, nor the few words which he spoke. ‘Why do you persecute me? See, I have died on the cross for you and for the whole world’ These words were burned into my heart as by lightning, and I fell on the ground before him. My heart was filled with inexpressible joy and peace, and my whole life was entirely changed. [Pp. 25-26].

In spite of opposition and rejection by family, he shared his new faith throughout the towns and villages of India, and beyond into the dangerous mountain regions of Tibet. He in deed became a famous *Sadhu* for Jesus. By 1929, he had visited Europe and America and become world famous. His encounter with Christianity in the West shocked him:

In non-Christian countries, men worship idols made with hands; in the so-called Christian countries I find a worse kind of heathenism- men worship themselves. When you see Christ in his glory, then you will grieve that you did not believe in him as your God. But then it will be too late. You have allowed yourselves to be led astray by unbelievers- by intellectual men who said you should not believe in his divinity. Repentance then will be too late. [p. 169]

Towards the end of his short but eventful earthly life, his father had become a Christian and restored Sundar his rightful place in the family. Early in 1929, Sundar went on one of his well-known solitary journeys to the Tibetan Mountains. He never came back and has not been seen again since then. Given his close relationship with Christ, some people believe that he was taken up like Enoch [Gen. 5:24] and Elijah [2 Kgs 2:11].

3. Jesus visits a Pakistani Moslem family

{Source: Gulshan Esther & Thelma Sangster’s *The Torn Veil* (London: Marshall Pickering, 1984)}

Gulshan Fatima (1951-) was the youngest daughter (out of five children) of a wealthy and famous Punjab Moslem family that has a direct lineage to Fatima, Prophet Mohammed’s daughter. She was crippled from childhood and her mother died early. Before her death, her husband had given his word that he would not remarry so that he could pay all his attention to Gulshan. Consequently, he personally supervised her strict upbringing as a Moslem. In that respect, he always told her:

Gulshan, I want you always to remember this. Our religion is greater than any other because, first of all, the glory of God is Mohammed. There were many other prophets, but Mohammed brought God’s final message to mankind, and there is no need of any prophet after him. Second, Mohammed is God’s Friend. He destroyed all the idols and converted all the people who worshipped the idols of Islam. Third, God gave the Quran to Mohammed, after all the other

holy books. It is God's last word and we must obey it. All other writings are incomplete [p. 10].

She earnestly desired to walk again. So, her father took her to the best hospitals in Pakistan and Britain to no avail. In 1966, at 15 years of age, an English doctor advised her family that it was beyond medicine and that they could try prayers. As soon as they left the hospital, her father quickly told his daughter, “This is a Christian country. *They believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Of course, they are wrong, because God never married and how could He have a Son?*” [P.16].

On their way home to Pakistan, Gulshan found herself on an unscheduled pilgrimage to Mecca so as to offer healing prayers at the *Ka'aba*, the Moslem sacred stone. In spite of the hardship, made worse by her situation, she finally made it to the *Ka'aba* and earnestly prayed for healing. “I really expected *at that moment* to be healed, to have all this paralysis taken away. *But nothing happened*” [p. 32]. On their way home, her father comforted her: “God is testing you and testing me. Don't be hopeless. Maybe at some stage in your life you'll be healed.” Gulshan was not consoled! “With no means of knowing God's will in the matter, and there being no improvement, I went on praying *my mechanical prayers and looked set fair to do that for the rest of my days*” [p. 37]. But her father himself didn't quite recover from the ultimate defeat in Mecca.

The Encounter with Jesus begins!

In December 1968, Gulshan's father died of complications triggered by pneumonia. Although he left her a fortune, she now felt lonely and abandoned. Out of sheer helplessness, she began to talk to God, “really talk to Him, not as a Moslem does, using set prayers, approaching Him across a great gulf. *I prayed as if talking to One who knew my circumstances and my need. 'I want to die,' I said, 'I don't want to live any more and that's the end of it'*” [p.48].

The silence that followed was so deep that she could hear her heart beating. ***Just then, a low gentle voice spoke to her in her language; “I won't let you die. I will keep you alive.”*** When she questioned who was speaking, the voice came again, “vibrant and low”:

Who gave eyes to the blind, and who healed the lepers and who raised the dead? I am Jesus, son of Mary. Read about Me in the Quran, in the Sura Maryam [p. 48].

So, three days after her father's death, Gulshan found herself buried in her *Urdu Quran*, reading avidly about Jesus Christ in *Sura Maryam*:

The angels said to Mary: Allah bids you rejoice in a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary. He shall be noble in this world and in the next, and shall be favoured by Allah [p. 51].

Gulshan was curious how a man that the Quran claimed was created like Adam could be so favoured to perform miracles and “speak to me from out of heaven as if he were alive” [p. 53]. How could God give so much power to this man which Mohammed never claimed? “Where was it written that Mohammed healed the sick and raised the dead?” whereas *Sura “The Imran”* recorded that Jesus did [p.53]. So, she started using the name of Jesus when telling her beads, “Oh Jesus, Son of Maryam, heal me” [p.59].

The Big One!

After three clear years, there was still no answer. As is common in Eastern religions, she woke up one night at 3 am to do her Quran studies, a chore that she was beginning to lose interest in doing because it looked fruitless.

Just then, the whole room was filled with light, which was growing more and more in brightness:

I came out from my shawl to look. But the doors and windows were fast shut, with curtains and shutters drawn. I then became aware of figures in long robes, standing in the midst of the light, some feet from my bed. There were 12 figures in a row and the figure in the middle, the thirteenth, was larger and brighter than the others... I bowed my head and I prayed, ‘Oh God, who are these people, and how have they come here when all the windows and doors are shut?’ Suddenly, a voice said, ‘Get up. This is the path you have been seeking. I am Jesus Son of Mary to whom you have been praying, and now I am standing in front of you. You get up and come to Me.’ [p.61]

After the third prompting, she stood up and her limbs straightened! Jesus put His hand on her head and she saw a hole in His hand from which a ray of light struck down upon her green dress which now looked white. The other 12 figures turned out to be His 12 Apostles. Jesus added:

I am Jesus. I am Immanuel. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am alive, and I am soon coming. See, from today you are My witness... Wherever you go I will be with you, and from today you must pray like this: Our Father, which art in heaven,... [P.61]

He taught her the Lord’s Prayer until she crammed it. He told her much more but everything was over by 4 am. Soon, she began to wonder why the Quran which “claimed to be the ultimate guide to every detail of your lives” managed to say so little about Jesus. “So step by step I was being drawn along by a hunger for the truth” [p.69]. A few nights later, Jesus came back in “a misty pillar, from floor to ceiling. Jesus was inside the mist. I was not asleep, or dreaming. Jesus said, ‘Come to Me’ and gladly I rose and went” [p.75].

She felt herself lifted into the air and landed gently in an open plain. She saw people; “they all had crowns on their heads, and were clothed in brightness which hurt my eyes. I heard words like beautiful music. The people were saying ‘Holy’ and

'Hallelujah.' That was a new word to me which Moslems do not use. They were saying *'He is the slain Lamb. He is alive' and I realized that they were all looking at Jesus*” Jesus told her, “These are My people. These are the people who speak the truth. These are the people who know how to pray. They are the people who believe the Son of God” [p. 75]. So, when she now started to read the Bible, she had already experienced much of its contents in her personal life!

The rest of her close encounters with Jesus and sufferings and successful ministry among Moslems both in Pakistan and Europe can be found in the book that we have been quoting from.

4. Conclusion

I promised you that I was not going to utter any additional word to the testimonies that we have read above, except to remind you of **John 3:16,18**:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life...He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not in Him is condemned already.

Hitler had the logic but reality undermined it. So, no matter what you say or believe about Jesus Christ, *sooner than later*, you will face Him! His Father has made Him *sole* Judge over all of humankind [**Jn 5:22**] and He is the One to pronounce whether you will go to heaven or hell when you die [**Matt. 25: 34, 41**]. Jesus-bashing is dangerous to your hereafter. So, get saved and let Jesus dwell in your heart. Stop living dangerously!