

A letter to a Muslim friend at Easter

Feel free to take and adapt this in any way

Sometime last year in one of our chats over the fence we got onto Islam and Christianity and you remarked that they are similar and I said that they are fundamentally different. You were called away at that point and we've never happened to pick up on that conversation since.

As Easter is approaching, I would like to explain what I meant and what Easter means in truth. Whilst everyone enjoys the chocolate eggs and it's great to have a bank holiday day-off (at least it was till COVID-19 levelled everything or a lot of things), that isn't what Easter is all about. Like commercial Christmas, commercial Easter has nothing to do with the real thing.

For us as believing followers of the Lord Jesus Christ Easter is all year round. We rejoice in His death and resurrection daily, every moment. The unacceptable scandal that Muslims see and the sheer impossibility that God would allow His Prophet Isa to be subjected to such shame and dishonour culminating in a criminal's death on a cross only goes to underscore, emphasise, and blow our minds at the extent of God's love and grace towards this fallen rebellious human race of which we are all part.

It is the impossibility (in our minds) of such Heaven-sent and Heaven-brought forgiveness that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for the sin of the whole human race, including you and us, that reveals God's love as so awesome and beyond what we could ever imagine, expect or deserve. We are definitely NOT entitled to be the joyous recipients of God's grace, and yet He so loved and loves us anyway.

No wonder that Islam claims that God would not allow it and that Jesus was substituted. But He did. Far from being substituted, the LORD JESUS in fact became **our** substitute, dying in our place and going to Hell in our place where we deserve to die and go.

This is God's amazing grace towards Mankind so that (Jesus said:) "Whoever believes in Me shall not perish (in Hell) but have everlasting life."

A Mahabba group member