

Islam : A Contemporary Comparative Discourse

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ISLAM: A CONTEMPORARY COMPARATIVE DISCOURSE

by

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ABSTRACT

The concept of monotheism has been in human history for a long time before the coming of Islam with Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) in the 6th Century. Unfortunately, the conception of monotheism has not been consistent. Basically, monotheism is the belief in one God and He is the God of everybody and everything. Judaism believes in monotheism, but its concept of the Chosen People takes away the aspect of "God of everybody". Christianity also believes in monotheism, but its concept of secularism takes away the concept of "God of everything". Furthermore, Christianity upholds the Trinity, which of course interferes with the concept of absolute oneness and singularity of God. Islam comes to correct these conceptions and to reinstate the concept of monotheism back into its original form, that is, there is only one God and He is the God of everything and everybody. Thus Islam recognizes no concept of shared divinity, or partial divinity, and God is the God of everybody and everything. In His very first revelation, Allah the Almighty introduced Himself as the Creator God to man via man's intellectual faculty. Thus in Islam understanding becomes the basis of faith; in Islam, it is conviction rather than belief. With conviction, then comes voluntary submission. Man is a composite of a tripartite constitution – the physical, the intellectual, and the spiritual. The first is enforced submission, the other two are voluntary submissions in which conviction and sincerity become essential. Thus Islam is concerned with the Truth, not just with ethics. All