Who is Allah?

Description: Do Muslims worship the same God as the Jews and Christians? Â What does the word Allah mean? Â Is Allah the Moon-god?
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Published on 20 Feb 2006 - Last modified on 12 Nov 2017
Category: Articles > Beliefs of Islam > About God

Some of the biggest misconceptions that many non-Muslims have about Islam have to do with the word â€œAllah.â€ Â For various reasons, many people have come to believe that Muslims worship a different God than Christians and Jews. Â This is totally false, since â€œAllahâ€ is simply the Arabic word for â€œGodâ€ - and there is only One God.Â Let there be no doubt - Muslims worship the God of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus - peace be upon them all.Â However, it is certainly true that Jews, Christians and Muslims all have different concepts of Almighty God.Â For example, Muslims - like Jews - reject the Christian beliefs of the Trinity and the Divine Incarnation.Â This, however, does not mean that each of these three religions worships a different God - because, as we have already said, there is only One True God.Â Judaism, Christianity and Islam all claim to be â€œAbrahamic Faithsâ€, and all of them are also classified as â€œmonotheistic.â€ However, Islam teaches that other religions have, in one way or another, distorted and nullified a pure and proper belief in Almighty God by neglecting His true teachings and mixing them with man-made ideas.

First of all, it is important to note that â€œAllahâ€ is the same word that Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews use for God.Â If you pick up an Arabic Bible, you will see the word â€œAllahâ€ being used where â€œGodâ€ is used in English.Â This is because â€œAllahâ€ is a word in the Arabic language equivalent to the English word â€œGodâ€ with a capital Â“Gâ€.Â Additionally, the word â€œAllahâ€ cannot be made plural, a fact which goes hand-in-hand with the Islamic concept of God.

It is interesting to note that the Aramaic word â€œElâ€, which is the word for God in the language that Jesus spoke, is certainly more similar in sound to the word â€œAllahâ€ than the English word â€œGod.â€ Â This also holds true for the various Hebrew words for God, which are â€œElâ€ and â€œElahâ€, and the plural or glorified form â€œElohim.â€ Â The reason for these similarities is that Aramaic, Hebrew and Arabic are all Semitic languages with common origins.Â It should also be noted that in translating the Bible into English, the Hebrew word â€œElâ€ is translated variously as â€œGodâ€, â€œgodâ€ and â€œangelâ€! Â This imprecise language allows different translators, based on their preconceived notions, to translate the word to fit their own views.Â The Arabic word â€œAllahâ€ presents no such difficulty or ambiguity, since it
is only used for Almighty God alone. Additionally, in English, the only difference between åœgodâ€Ž, meaning a false god, and åœGodâ€Ž, meaning the One True God, is the capital åœGâ€Ž. Due to the above mentioned facts, a more accurate translation of the word åœAllahâ€Ž into English might be åœThe One -and-Only Godâ€Ž or åœThe One True Godâ€Ž.

More importantly, it should also be noted that the Arabic word åœAllahâ€Ž contains a deep religious message due to its root meaning and origin. This is because it stems from the Arabic verb taâ€žallaha (or alaha), which means åœto be worshipped. Thus in Arabic, the word åœAllahâ€Ž means åœThe One who deserves all worship. This, in a nutshell, is the Pure Monotheistic message of Islam.

Suffice it to say that just because someone claims to be a åœmonotheisticâ€Ž Jew, Christian or Muslim, that does not keep them from falling into corrupt beliefs and idolatrous practices. Many people, including some Muslims, claim belief in åœOne Godâ€Ž even though theyâ€™ve fallen into acts of idolatry. Certainly, many Protestants accuse Roman Catholics of idolatrous practices in regards to the saints and the Virgin Mary. Likewise, the Greek Orthodox Church is considered åœidolatrousâ€Ž by many other Christians because in much of their worship they use icons. However, if you ask a Roman Catholic or a Greek Orthodox person if God is åœOneâ€Ž, they will invariably answer: åœYes!. This claim, however, does not stop them from being åœcreature worshippingåŒŠ idolaters. The same goes for Hindus, who just consider their gods to be åœmanifestationsåŒŠ or åœincarnationsåŒŠ of the One Supreme God.

Before concluding there are some people out there, who are obviously not on the side of truth, that want to get people to believe that åœAllahâ€Ž is just some Arabian åœgodâ€Ž, and that Islam is completely åœotherâ€Ž - meaning that it has no common roots with the other Abrahamic religions (i.e. Christianity and Judaism). To say that Muslims worship a different åœGodâ€Ž because they say åœAllahâ€Ž is just as illogical as saying that French people worship another God because they use the word åœDieuâ€Ž, that Spanish-speaking people worship a different God because they use the word åœDiosâ€Ž, or that the Jews worship a different God because they sometimes call Him åœYahweh.â€Ž. Certainly, reasoning like this is quite ridiculous! It should also be mentioned, that claiming that any one language uses the only the correct word for God is tantamount to denying the universality of Godâ€™s message to mankind, which was to all nations, tribes and people through various prophets who spoke different languages.

We would like to ask our readers about the motives of these people? The reason is that the Ultimate Truth of Islam stands on solid ground and its unshakeable belief in the Unity of God is above reproach. Due to this, Christians canâ€™t criticize its doctrines directly, but instead fabricate things about Islam that arenâ€™t true so that people lose the desire to learn more. If Islam were presented in the proper way to the world, it surely might make many people reconsider and re-evaluate their own beliefs. It is quite likely that when they find out that there is a universal religion in the world that teaches people to worship and love God, while also practicing Pure Monotheism, would at least feel that they should re-examine the basis for their own beliefs and doctrines.
Endnotes:

[1] Such as the claim propagated by Robert Morey in his work, *The Moon-god Allaah in the Archeology of the Middle East*. For a discussion of this work, please see the following links:

(http://www.islamic-awareness.org/Quran/Sources/Allah/moongod.html)

The web address of this article:

http://www.islamreligion.com/articles/195

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