

The Abrahamism

By Mohammad Sammak

My presentation is based on three concepts:

- 1- The concept of the Abrahamic doctrine of belief.
- 2- The concept of Islam before Prophet Mohammad.
- 3- The concept of belief in general.

1-The concept of the Abrahamic doctrine of belief:

The first chapter in the Abrahamic belief –to my understanding- can be understood from a conversation between God and Abraham as it is mentioned in the Holy Quran (2/260).

It states the following :

Abraham said: “My Lord show me how you give life to the dead”. He (God) said: Do you not believe? He (Abraham) said: Yes, but to satisfy my own heart”.

God said: “Take four birds, cut them into pieces, then put a portion of them on every hill, and call them, they will come to thee with speed”.

We understand from this conversation and from this experience that belief is a state of mind. That doubt is the way to the truth. That believing is not a family inheritance or a communal solidarity.

It is a work of the mind. That is to say :

We understand God and we believe in God by our minds, by the thinking about Him out in the universe and deep in ourselves.

We worship God by thinking, not by following and imitating.

That is why in Islam, God speaks highly of what He calls “his best creation” : “the mind” (العقل) .

Before the conversation between God and Abraham, and before the miracle of the birds, would an old man dare to kill his chosen son by cutting off his throat?

Philosopher Emanuel Kante blamed Abraham for almost doing it. But Kante did not realize that Abraham was at that time very sure that God will bring his son back to life as He did with the four birds.

Doubt is the way to the truth. And Abrahamic belief is based on this truth.

2- The concept of Islam before Muhammad :

The Holy Quran teaches that :

- a- Abraham was the first Muslim, and he himself coined the term Islam.
- b- All prophets –the descendants from Abraham and their followers believed in, surrendered, and submitted to God, which means in the Arabic language : Islam.
- c- That Islam is all that long march of believing in God, from Abraham to Mohammad.
- d- That Mohammad is thus the last –not the first- Prophet in Islam.

That is why Islam as taught by Prophet Mohammad, is based on the concept of believe in all Prophets, mainly Moses and Jesus, and in all the Holy Books, mainly the Torah and the Bible.

And that is why, Prophet Mohammad said. I came to continue (not to start).

So, the concept of belief in Islam is to believe in all the messages and of all the messengers that were chosen by God before Mohammad .

Allow me to quote this verse from the Quran (13/42) :

“The same religion has He established for you as that which he enjoined on Noah, the which we have sent by inspiration to thee.

And that which we enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in Religion, and make no divisions therein “.

« Il vous a legifere en matiere de religion, ce qu'elle avait enjoint a Noe, ce que nous avons enjoint a Abraham, a Moise, et a Jesus : Etablissez la religion, et n'en faites pas un sujet de divisions »

That is why the relations between Muslims, Jews and Christians is not, and it should not be based on the principle of tolerance (Nitchee describes tolerance as an insult to the other) but it should be based on belief. Citizenship should be based on this belief and not on tolerance, and consequently, on equal rights.

3 – The general concept of belief in Islam:

The Holy Quran teaches that :

- a- The mercy of God requires delivering his message to all peoples and informing them about His Truth before any judgment.
- b- To accomplish this, God had sent messengers to all peoples in all the different continents of world.
- c- Not all of these Prophets and messengers are named in the Holy Quran.

Based on these three principles, we can conclude that there should be other messengers from God (before Abraham, and maybe after Abraham) to deliver the message of God to the peoples of the world.

The Middle East is the cradle of religions, but it is not the cradle of all religions, simply because there are so many other peoples scattered all over the world, and they are not left over by God. The message and the mercy of God should be given to them all. So, who are those prophets and messengers who are not mentioned in the Quran?

I do not have an answer to this question. But I can say this :

Islam teaches that :

- a- A human being is dignified by God for being a human being, regardless of his-or her- belief, or even of non- belief.
- b- Humanity is not one, and it will never be. Humanity is diverse, and its differences are and will remain until the end of time by the will of God. That is why accepting and respecting these God made differences is not only a fundamental basis for human conviviality, but it is also a sign of submission to the will of God. (in Arabic submission means Islam).

Allow me to conclude by saying this : If religion is disengaged from politics, religious plurality between and within: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam can remain “one message in three” under the Abrahamic concept of belief.

The question here is this is possible today?

From a political angle, the answer is surely No. Big No.

We read in Mathew (chapter 13, verse 12) :

“For whosoever has, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance; but whosoever has not, from him shall be taken away even that he has”. A depth reading of these words, reveals two important points:-

First, it is clear that Mathew is talking about spiritual knowledge and not material matters.

And second, Mathew suggests that serious devotion to acquiring such knowledge is especially beneficial. So, if at first we don't succeed in this call, we have to try, and try again.

After all this is the safest and the shortest distance to peaceful coexistence between religions, and consequently between the peoples of all humanity.

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