

Christ and the Koran

Play in 1 act

Koran meets Bible - Christianity meets Islam - Christians meet Muslims

A stage play/ chamber play for 6 roles

by Achim Höpner

27. Stage version

Muhammad used to deal with Christians and the church, now Muslims can deal directly with Jesus, the Bible and modern Christianity.

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Achim Höpner

Tel.: 01605431493

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Hints:

Regular black font indicates what is being done.

Black italics indicate how something is said.

The information at the end of the spoken text indicates the underlying passage in the Koran or the Bible. 2:87 therefore means Sura 2, verse 87 and Mat 2:8 means Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verse 8.

Roles

CHRIST(-US) Jesus Christ, founder of Christianity or messenger of Jesus. Just quotes what Jesus says in the Bible.

ASTRID modern teacher with bible knowledge, defends Christianity and informs herself about Islam.

SLIM Muslim scholar, Sunnite, defends the Koran, quotes from the Koran.

Suleiman Muslim leader, Shiite, and ruler, defends Islam.

KATJA young woman with a Christian background.

KARIM young, curious man from an Islamic country informs himself about the Bible, Jesus and Christianity.

KATJA and **KARIM** are secretly a couple.

ASTRID is the teacher of **KATJA** and stands up for **KATJA** and **KARIM**.

Target groups: Muslims, Christians, scribes, experts, religious people, skeptics, interested parties, students, unbelievers.

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The foundation of Islam

ASTRID, SLIM, Suleiman, KARIM, KATJA on stage

SLIM and Suleiman sitting at the desk, KARIM and KATJA stand or sit in front of it.

Suleiman to KATJA It's nice that you want to find out more about Islam.

KATJA I brought my teacher with me, I hope that's ok?

ASTRID appears. Hello everyone. Waves her hand. Stays in the background.

SLIM and Suleiman wave to her.

KATJA to SLIM What does Islam mean?

SLIM Islam means submission to God 7:170

Suleiman smiling And not submission to a church.

SLIM looks at KARIM shaking his head They wanted us to submit to the church.

ASTRID smiling comes closer I understand that your ancestors didn't want that.

Suleiman We are ready to serve God, but not a church.

ASTRID to KATJA Their ancestors rightly feared a loss of power.

SLIM It's also about our identity.

Suleiman We will never submit to a church.

SLIM mockingly A church that wants to force us into idolatry. looks at KARIM

KARIM No way.

SLIM Muhammad pointed out the church's deviations from the truth.

Suleiman But they didn't listen to him.

SLIM That's why he withdrew.

SLIM takes KARIM aside (to point out some untruths).

Suleiman takes ASTRID and KATJA aside. Every people wants to be free and independent.

ASTRID Certainly no one wants to be oppressed or exploited.

Suleiman That is why we will never submit to another people.

ASTRID But you do submit to the will of God, don't you?

Suleiman Of course we submit to Allah's will.

KATJA And where can God's will be found?

Suleiman Inside the Koran.

ASTRID Only in the Koran!?

Suleiman The truth can also be found in the hadiths.

KATJA Where?

Suleiman In the traditions.

ASTRID At the time of Jesus, many clung to their traditions but rejected the inspired scriptures. Mark 7:9

Suleiman In the hadiths you can find a lot about the Prophet that is not in the Koran.

KATJA How important is the Prophet to you?

Suleiman He is our role model. Everything he said, did, or approved.

ASTRID The model for Christians is Jesus. For them he is the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6

Suleiman You have your role model and we have our model.

ASTRID To each his own?

Suleiman You submit to God in your way, we submit to God in our way.

KATJA What if someone doesn't submit to God?

Suleiman We wish that all people submit to God and become Muslims.

ASTRID But you don't force anyone to do so?

Suleiman Of course not. Every non-Muslim has the freedom to become a Muslim. But he doesn't have to. 18:29

KATJA Does a Muslim also have the freedom to leave or change his religion?

Suleiman Why should we hinder him?

ASTRID Because you don't like to give away what's yours?

Suleiman *smiling* Nobody likes something taken away from him.

ASTRID Who do people belong to, to you or God?

Suleiman Allah has entrusted them to us.

ASTRID And who do they have to obey?

Suleiman Whoever submits to Allah, submits to his law and his representatives.

KATJA Which law?

Suleiman The Sharia. These are the laws and rules that emerge from the Koran and the Sunnah of the Prophet.

ASTRID But above all, people should obey God?

Suleiman nods in agreement.

ASTRID Are Christians also allowed to obey God?

Suleiman We don't hinder anyone. As long as they don't want to convert us.

KATJA And if someone has already converted himself?

ASTRID You're for religious freedom, aren't you?

Suleiman For us, religious freedom means that every Muslim can freely practice his or her faith. And what does submission to God mean to you?

ASTRID For Christians, submission to God means approving God's appointed King, Jesus Christ.

SLIM approaches with KARIM Jesus is a prophet - One prophet among many. 5:75

KATJA And shouldn't we listen to the prophets?

Suleiman Sure, if Allah sent them.

SLIM *with a view to* ASTRID But many speak without Allah having sent them.

Suleiman to KARIM They can easily mislead.

SLIM to KARIM If we obey any part of those to whom the Book was given, they will cause us to disbelieve again. 3:101

ASTRID But don't people need to know the truths from the book?

SLIM The truth cannot be hidden. 2:43

Suleiman pulls KARIM aside.

ASTRID But many oppress the truth.

SLIM Allah knows who conceals and avoids the truth 4:136

ASTRID Jesus stood up for the truth. But even though he had performed so many signs, they did not receive him. John 12:37

SLIM They didn't accept Muhammad either.

ASTRID But Jesus performed great signs.

SLIM Indeed, those who deny Allah's signs will experience a severe punishment. 3:4

ASTRID Many of the leaders even believed in Jesus, but they did not confess him.

SLIM Why not?

ASTRID Anyone who confessed to Jesus should be excluded from the community. John 9:22

SLIM Sometimes it's better to keep your mouth shut.

ASTRID And sometimes you have to choose between the acceptance of people and the acceptance of God. John 12:43

SLIM *warning* The wise ones let themselves be warned 39:10

ASTRID The ignorant ones persecute even the messengers of God.

SLIM Whoever is an enemy of the Messengers of Allah makes himself an enemy of God. 2:99

Suleiman and KARIM talk to each other in parallel. Switch to them.

Suleiman Christians have distorted the words of Jesus. They claim that Jesus is God in human figure.

KARIM But Jesus didn't claim that?

Suleiman Exactly. Muhammad's criticism is not directed against the person of Jesus.

KARIM And how did Christians react?

Suleiman They didn't want to listen to the prophet. - Woe to those who reject the truth 52:12

KARIM The truth from the scriptures?

Suleiman The word of the Lord is perfect in truth and righteousness. 6:115

KARIM Is everything true?

Suleiman There is no one who can change His words. He is the All-Hearing and All-Knowing. 6:115

Switch back to ASTRID and SLIM

KATJA Is it true that people are persecuted simply for spreading God's word?

SLIM Often they not only spread the Bible, but also speak against the Koran and Muhammad.

ASTRID Maybe the Bible speaks against Muhammad?

SLIM How can the Bible speak against Muhammad when the Bible had already been written before Muhammad was sent?

ASTRID Then maybe Muhammad is speaking against the Bible?

SLIM Muhammad confirms the message of the Bible.

KATJA Everyone should judge for himself.

SLIM I fear, the People of the Book will turn them into unbelievers again.
2:109

ASTRID *smiling* Or the scriptures make them believers or Christians.

Suleiman and KARIM join again.

Who is a Christian or Muslim?

KARIM Who is a believer or Christian?

ASTRID That's up to Christ Jesus.

CHRIST appears Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" to him will enter the kingdom of heaven. Mat 7:21

SLIM Many so-called Christians don't behave in a Christian way at all.

ASTRID Then maybe they are not Christians.

KARIM Or they are weak.

Suleiman Anyway, you cannot trust their ID card.

ASTRID with a view to SLIM Not even their outer appearance.

CHRIST Although the outside of graves is beautiful, the inside is spoiled. Likewise, there are hypocrites who outwardly appear righteous. Mat 23:27,28

KARIM Yes, the outside can be deceiving.

CHRIST Even if someone comes in sheep's clothing, he may turn out to be a predatory wolf. Mat 7:15

ASTRID And a false prophet.

Suleiman to KARIM There were always false prophets among the People of the Book.

KATJA They still exist today.

KARIM Who are the people of the book?

ASTRID Before, just the Jews and the Christians.

KARIM And how to recognize the false prophets?

CHRISTB By their fruits.

KARIM to KATJA fruits?

CHRIST Every good tree produces good fruit, every bad tree produces bad fruit. Mat 7:16

ASTRID The tree is also recognized by its roots.

CHRIST laughing Yes, do not judge by appearances, but make a just judgment. John 7:24, 8:15

ASTRID It's good to look beneath the surface, dig and examine the tree at its roots.

KARIM What do you mean by roots?

ASTRID The basis of faith. Only the tree with healthy roots will grow upwards and thrive.

SLIM Every tree has naturally healthy roots.

ASTRID That means?

SLIM Man is good from birth. To KARIM And not a sinner, as they claim.

ASTRID Nobody is born as a Christian.

SLIM But as a Muslim.

ASTRID How that?

SLIM Every person is devoted to God at birth.

ASTRID Do parents agree?

KATJA *smiling* Rather not.

SLIM Of course, education is still needed. This then ensures that the children remain Muslims and part of the community.

ASTRID Then only the parents have to be Muslims?

SLIM It is enough if the father is Muslim.

KATJA For Christians, the parents decide whether the child will be baptized.

KARIM Why do you baptize your children?

KATJA My parents wanted me to be saved and part of the Christian community.

SLIM But did Jesus want you to baptize your children?

ASTRID Jesus wants people to be converted and to be baptized.

CHRIST Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Mat 28:19,20

KARIM In the name of - the - spirit?

ASTRID The person being baptized recognizes thus the role of the Holy Spirit – God's effective power.

KATJA And what does someone have to do if he or she wants to become a Muslim?

SLIM He or she must only acknowledge the role of the Prophet Muhammad. He has to inform himself and then recite the Shahada.

Suleiman The creed.

KATJA And how it goes?

SLIM Aschhadu anla ilaha illa-lah wa aschhadu anna muhammadan rasulu-lah.

KATJA *smiling* That was too fast for me.

ASTRID And what does it mean?

SLIM There is no god besides Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.
37:35, 48:29

ASTRID And what about the Koran?

SLIM The Quran is God's revelation to Muhammad.

ASTRID *relaxed* God knows his prophets, books and chosen ones. And whom he calls to his kingdom. Whom he will give responsibility over the earth together with Jesus. Rev 5:10

God's kingdom in heaven and also on earth?

KARIM And Jesus is the king?

CHRIST His kingdom is no part of this world. John 18:36

Suleiman So is he a king?

CHRIST You yourself say it. For this purpose, he was born and came into the world to bear witness to the truth. John 18:37

Suleima And where is his kingdom if it does not belong to this world?

ASTRID In heaven.

SLIM *shaking his head* The dominion over heaven and earth belongs to Allah. He does not share his rule with anyone. 25:2

Suleiman No one is equal to Allah.

CHRIST Surely the Father is greater than the Son. John 14:28 But the Father has given all things into his hand. John 3:35

KARIM Even the kingdom?

Suleiman *skeptical* And who gets a place in the kingdom?

SLIM *suspiciously* Only you Christians?

CHRIST Only those who are born again can see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

Suleiman Being reborn, how is that supposed to work?

CHRIST That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

KARIM Born of the Spirit?

CHRIST Only those born of water and spirit can enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5

ASTRID Without God's Spirit it doesn't work.

CHRIST The flesh is of no use at all, it is the spirit that gives life. John 6:63.

ASTRID You also need an invitation.

CHRIST And appropriate clothing. Matthew 22:1-13

KARIM Which clothes?

ASTRID We should put on the Christ and clothe ourselves with the new personality. Ephesians 4:24

Suleiman And what about God's earthly kingdom?

ASTRID Followers of Christ are no part of the world. John 17:14

KARIM What does this mean?

ASTRID Christianity is just a religion.

Suleiman Islam is not just a religion. It encompasses the entire state: its laws, its social institutions, and its culture.

ASTRID The fusion of religion and state prevents the development of society.

Suleiman It consolidates society and prevents the society from dividing.

ASTRID Well, with the Koran and the founding of a community, Muhammad managed to unite the Arab tribes.

Suleiman Muhammad made them all brothers under one leader.

ASTRID And then he led them to war.

Suleiman Against the enemies of Allah.

KATJA Who are his enemies?

SLIM The unbelievers. 2:98

Suleiman Islam allows the use of the sword. 9:5

ASTRID Jesus allows the use of love.

CHRIST Continue to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Mat 5:44

Suleiman Christians often only had their book and such sayings.

SLIM But their enemies the sword.

CHRIST Happy are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Mat 5:10

Suleiman And what do you get out of it?

CHRIST Great is their reward in heaven. Mat 5:11

SLIM And on earth?

Suleiman *mockingly* Rather small.

SLIM Jesus did not come to bring peace, but the sword. Mat 10:34

ASTRID The Sword of the Spirit. Eph 6:13 It separates the children of the kingdom from the children of the evil one.

CHRIST Likewise, the Son of Man separates the weeds from the wheat. He had sown fine seeds in his field. While the people slept, his enemy sowed weeds among them. In order not to uproot the wheat with the weeds, he

lets them both grow until the harvest. But then he will remove the weeds and collect the wheat. Mat 13:20-26

KARIM Who does he mean by the weeds?

CHRIST The Son of Man will remove from His kingdom everything harmful, including all lawless people. Mat 13:41

KARIM And who does he mean by the wheat?

CHRIST These are the righteous ones who will shine as brightly as the sun in their Father's kingdom. Mat13:43

KARIM But when will that be?

CHRIST Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are already ripe for harvest. John 4:35

Suleiman The sword helped Muslims to establish God's kingdom.

SLIM And to remove anything harmful from it.

Suleiman And all the wicked.

ASTRID This is how Islam spread.

SLIM And the sword helped them to defend their kingdom.

CHRIST Anyone who takes up the sword will die by the sword. Matthew 26:52

ASTRID Violence leads to counter-violence.

Suleiman Violence can also prevent counter-violence.

ASTRID Refraining from violence can do that too.

Suleiman Islam is not a religion of weakness and powerlessness, but rather the religion of strength and power.

SLIM This is the very reason why Islam was the strongest political power for a long time.

Suleiman And we had peace.

ASTRID Because of the sword.

Vengeance and forgiveness

- Suleiman Sometimes violence is necessary.
- SLIM And vengeance is us prescribed: life for life, eye for eye, nose for nose, ear for ear, tooth for tooth. 5:45
- ASTRID But that sounds a lot like the Old Testament.
- SLIM It is a sin to forgo vengeance out of mercy. 5:45
- ASTRID That doesn't even sound like the Old Testament anymore.
- SLIM Whoever does not act according to what Allah has revealed acts unjustly. 5:45
- Suleiman It is a sign of weakness and powerlessness to refrain from vengeance.
- ASTRID But where remains the New Testament - and Jesus?
- SLIM When someone repents his transgression, God is of course merciful and ready to forgive. 5:39
- ASTRID But there has to be punishment!?
- Suleiman Allah forgives and Allah punishes.
- SLIM Don't you know that Allah punishes whomever He pleases and forgives whomever He pleases? 5:40
- KARIM So whoever repents will be forgiven?
- Suleiman Those who have done something shameful or sinned against themselves but then seek forgiveness from Allah can still enter Paradise. 3:135
- ASTRID Who can forgive sins?
- SLIM *laughing* Who forgives sins except Allah? 3:135
- ASTRID Jesus?
- Suleiman No one can forgive sins except God alone. 3:135
- ASTRID And if God gives someone the authority to do that?
- CHRIST The Son of Man has authority to forgive sins. Mat 9:6
- SLIM Anyone can claim that.
- ASTRID The religious leaders of Jesus' time also doubted this.
- CHRIST What is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to a paralytic, "Get up and walk?" Mat 9:5

ASTRID Jesus healed the sick, proving that he could forgive sins.

CHRIST to KARIM Do you believe this?

CHRIST and KARIM disappear.

Sinners

CHRIST informed KARIM how God thinks about sinners.
conversation between CHRIST and Karim part 1
Pan to CHRIST and KARIM

KARIM How does God see me? As a sinner or as a righteous person? What does Jesus say about this?

CHRIST Two men went up to the house of God to pray. The first prayed: "O God, I thank you that I am not like other people, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or like this sinner next to me. I fast twice a week, and I pay my dues." But the other would not even raise his eyes to heaven, but said, "O God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Luk 18:10-13

CHRIST Which of the two proved to be fairer?

KARIM The first?

CHRIST The second went down to his house as a righteous man;

KARIM Why?

CHRIST Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14

KARIM Sure, we should not think too good of us and not too bad of others.

CHRIST Stop judging, lest you be judged; for with the judgment with which you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure with which you measure, they will measure you. So why pay attention to the straw in your brother's eye and not the plank in your own eye? Mat 7:1-3

KARIM But we can think well of ourselves?

CHRIST One is good – God. Mar 10:18

KARIM *laughing* So when I see myself as a sinner, God views me as a righteous man, but when I see myself as a righteous man, God views me as a sinner. Then I'd rather be a sinner.

CHRIST *laughing* Neither did the Son of Man come to call the righteous, but sinners. Mark 2:17

KARIM So everyone is a sinner because no one is perfect?

CHRIST nods You shall be perfect as the Father is perfect. Mat 5:48

KARIM But how can I become perfect?

CHRIST Whoever hungers and thirsts for righteousness will be satisfied. Mat 5:6

Requirements for Muslims

Suleiman and Slim inform Astrid about the Koran and how someone can be saved.
Switch back to ASTRID, Suleiman and SLIM

SLIM What good is faith for if there are no deeds?

ASTRID Which deeds?

Suleiman Allah expects good deeds.

KATJA What do I have to do as a Muslim?

SLIM Islam is based on 5 pillars: Shows the five fingers of his hand one after the other.

SLIM 1. The Creed

Suleiman You must confess Allah, the only true God, and his Messenger Muhammad.37:35, 48:29

SLIM 2. Daily prayer.

Suleiman You must pray towards Mecca five times a day.

SLIM 3. The alms

Suleiman You have to pay the poor tax. 2:110

SLIM 4. Fasting

Suleiman You must fast during Ramadan. 2:185

SLIM 5. The pilgrimage

Suleiman You have to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in your life. 3:97

KATJA And if I do all that?

SLIM These and your other good deeds are added to your scales.

Suleiman And at death the deeds are weighed.

SLIM He who has heavy scales will fare well. 23:102

ASTRID This reminds me of the little girl who dreams of a big, beautiful garden. If she wants to have a garden like this, her parents say, then she has to save money, so she throws a small coin into a large chest every day. The child is happy because with every little coin she gets closer to her big dream. When she has grown up, she wants to purchase the garden, but she is told that she doesn't have enough money yet. And so she continues to save until she finally gets old and is dying. Then she is told that she reached her goal. The money is enough for the most beautiful garden she can ever imagine. And so the little girl dies happily, because her big dream has finally come true.

SLIM Paradise is not just a dream.

Suleiman Every good deed counts.

ASTRID And the one who has light scales?

Suleiman He will lose his soul and remain in hell forever. 23:103

ASTRID And who does the weighing?

SLIM Allah sets up the just scales for the Day of Resurrection. 9:47

KATJA And what about bad deeds?

Suleiman Good deeds remove evil deeds. 11:114

ASTRID *mockingly* And in the end, whoever has more good deeds than bad ones wins?

SLIM *shaking his head* Those whose scales with good deeds weighs heavily, will be successful. 7:8-9

ASTRID But what is considered heavy?

Suleiman Allah decides that.

KATJA And whoever has many good deeds but does not believe?

SLIM What use are deeds for without faith? Whoever does not believe and denies the signs of God, his works have no weight. 18:103-105

ASTRID Thus salvation depends on faith and works.

SLIM Judgment belongs to Allah. 40:12

Suleiman A religion can only be judged as true or false, good or bad, on the basis of what kind of people it produces.

ASTRID And what kind of people does your religion produce?

Suleiman Islam produces humble people who honor God and obey his laws.

SLIM These are the fundamentals.

ASTRID People may do what they are supposed to do, but why? Perhaps out of fear of punishment and persecution, out of coercion and powerlessness, out of a pure sense of duty and blind obedience.

Suleiman Or because Allah wants it that way.

Women

Suleiman and Slim want to convince ASTRID and KATJA how well women are treated in Islam.

Sex

ASTRID *provocative* So, what does Allah want if two unmarried people become intimate with each other?

SLIM *strict* If two commit fornication, they must be chastised. 4:16

KATJA And what does this chastisement look like?

SLIM Both receive 100 strokes. 24:2

ASTRID Equal treatment?

SLIM *makes a gesture with the open flat left hand* A male fornicator commits fornication *makes a gesture with the open flat right hand* And a female fornicator commits fornication. Both weigh the same weight.

KATJA Without mercy?

SLIM We should not show pity in the face of the final Judgment. 24:2

ASTRID Do you want to save them from hell?

Suleiman Not just them.

SLIM Believers should be present when the punishment is being conducted. 24:2

Suleiman To frighten.

ASTRID That's why the punishments are so harsh.

SLIM And whoever commits fornication may only marry fornicators or unbelievers what is forbidden for believers. 24:3

Suleiman If two fornicators marry, they have nothing to blame each other for.

SLIM Both made mistakes!

Suleiman Allah wants to protect the believers.

SLIM And warn them.

Suleiman We should not even approach fornication (Zina). 5:32

SLIM *disgusted* It is something disgusting 17:32

Suleiman *disgusted* An evil way 17:32

ASTRID Elsewhere they find it something great.

SLIM Sex is a good gift from God.

Suleiman But has its place in marriage.

KATJA And what about contraceptives?

SLIM They also have their place.

Suleiman In marriage.

ASTRID What happens when two commit adultery?

SLIM If at least four Muslims testify, then women should be locked in the houses. 4:15

Suleiman Also women are allowed to testify.

ASTRID And how much does her testimony count?

SLIM The testimony of two women counts as much as the testimony of one man.

KATJA So half as much.

ASTRID And if there are no four witnesses?

SLIM Then the husband must swear four times that his wife is guilty. 24:6

ASTRID And what can his wife do about it?

SLIM She can swear four times that her husband is lying. 24:8

Suleiman The man can then do nothing about it.

SLIM However, if it turns out that the woman swore falsely,

Suleiman it looks bad for the woman.

ASTRID For how long can the husband lock her up?

SLIM Until death overtakes her or Allah gives her a way out. 4:15

ASTRID That sounds hard.

Suleiman So that she can't commit fornication again.

ASTRID And what could a way out look like?

SLIM The man could allow the woman to leave the house again.

Suleiman Women need their husband's permission if they want to leave the house anyway.

ASTRID And will the man who committed adultery also be imprisoned?

SLIM No.

Suleiman Men must go to work.

SLIM If the woman repents and improves, then we should leave her; Allah is Gracious and Merciful. 4:16

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

Suleiman Your husbands do not mind if their wives have contact with other men, but they end up crying when their wives commit adultery.

KATJA And what if the husband commits adultery?

ASTRID Should the indecent women now be beaten or imprisoned?

SLIM The one does not exclude the other.

Suleiman Scholars' opinions differ on this point.

KATJA Also whether unmarried people are allowed to have sex?

Marriage

- SLIM In Islam, marriage is the only way.
- Suleiman Different lifestyles are not designated.
- KATJA Then the only perspective is to marry young, give birth to many children, raise them and grow old together with the husband.
- SLIM That's fine.
- ASTRID People are not all the same, they don't all think the same and they don't always want the same.
- Suleiman What do you mean by that?
- KATJA Not everyone views the meaning of life in getting married, bearing and raising children.
- ASTRID People are different, like the colors of the rainbow. No color is better or worse than the other, just different.
- SLIM For you there is no longer white and black.
- Suleiman No more haram, everything is halal.
- KATJA What do you mean?
- SLIM With you nothing is forbidden anymore, everything is allowed.
- ASTRID And with you it's only black or white.
- Suleiman It doesn't work without laws.
- ASTRID But do we need so many rules and prohibitions?
- Suleiman No society functions without clear laws.
- SLIM We can't just think about ourselves.
- Suleiman We also have to think about society.
- ASTRID We also have to think about people.
- SLIM That's why we separate boys and girls very early to protect them from severe punishment and shame.
- Suleiman We restrict girls' freedom, but only to protect them.
- SLIM It's about their purity.
- Suleiman And for the honor of the family.
- SLIM And about the future husband.
- Suleiman He wants a virgin.

ASTRID And what does the young woman want?

Suleiman The same.

ASTRID But does she get it?

SLIM Yes, thanks to gender segregation,

Suleiman And thanks to the attentive protection from the family.

ASTRID *mockingly* Who will certainly be happy to help you find a suitable husband.

SLIM Of course we don't leave our daughters alone.

Suleiman But without forcing them to marry.

SLIM There are no forced marriages in Islam.

Suleiman Arranged marriages at most.

ASTRID grins.

SLIM You also have marriage agencies.

Suleiman The girls also want a husband.

SLIM But the parents have more life experience.

Suleiman And know what is best for their children.

KATJA Are you sure about that?

ASTRID Do young people know who they are getting involved with?

SLIM How much a man is allowed to see a woman before marriage is controversial.

ASTRID Which man is eligible?

SLIM The husband must give the bride a gift. 4:4

Suleiman Ideally, something valuable: gold, money or jewelry.

SLIM to KATJA This gift then belongs to her alone.

ASTRID Does the bride's father also get a gift?

SLIM He may not demand a gift, but he may accept a gift.

KATJA Why something valuable?

Suleiman The woman should be taken care of in the event of her husband's death or divorce.

ASTRID You must have that much money first.

Suleiman This way, the man shows his seriousness and what importance the marriage has for him.

SLIM And the bride is honored.

ASTRID If she finds someone who brings so much with him.

Suleiman It also works with less.

SLIM The bride can even disclaim anything. 4:4

KATJA And whom can she marry?

SLIM Muslims are not allowed to marry non-believers. 60:10, 2:221.

Suleiman And Muslima only Muslims.

KATJA So a man can also marry a Christian or a Jew.

ASTRID But the woman only a Muslim.

SLIM The man has the responsibility to raise the children in the faith.

KATJA And must increase the number of believers.

ASTRID And what requirements does the girl have to meet?

SLIM Of course the girl has to be a virgin.

ASTRID And how old does the girl have to be at least?

SLIM The Quran does not specify a minimum age.

Suleiman The girls should be sexually mature.

ASTRID Wasn't one of the Prophet's wives - not even ten?

SLIM Back then the situation was special and unique.

ASTRID But isn't Muhammad your role model?

Suleiman Through marriage, she was with the Prophet, was able to hear the word of Allah and pass it on to later generations.

SLIM She was also the daughter of Muhammad's trusted general and later 1st Caliph.

Suleiman Today there is a minimum age in most Muslim countries.

SLIM But even today there are advantages if a man marries a young girl.

ASTRID Then no one else can snatch her away.

Suleiman And he can still have an educational effect on her.

ASTRID Which is actually the responsibility of the girl's parents.

Livelihood

- SLIM When she gets married, her husband takes responsibility for her.
- Suleiman He now has to provide for their livelihood. 4:34
- KATJA And what does the woman have to contribute?
- SLIM Nothing.
- Suleiman The woman's property and income belong solely to her. Neither her husband, nor her children, nor anyone else has any right to it.
- ASTRID And what about the man's property and income?
- SLIM Of course they belong to him.
- Suleiman But he has to give his wife the necessities of life.
- SLIM The wife has no financial obligations to anyone.
- Suleiman She can spend, give away or invest her possessions without her husband, father or anyone else agreement.
- ASTRID And how can women acquire property?
- SLIM For example through an inheritance.
- ASTRID Women can inherit?
- Suleiman Of course.
- KATJA As much as men?
- SLIM The half.
- ASTRID I think husbands will have little interest in wives going to work.
- SLIM The wives even more so.
- Suleiman She can keep everything she earns.
- ASTRID And if the husband doesn't allow his wife working or studying?
- SLIM Of course, the woman has to take care of the children and the household first and foremost.
- Suleiman But if she complies with it, then there stands nothing against it.
- SLIM The husband is obliged to treat his wife well and support her.
- KATJA But he can disallow her to work.

Suleiman If it is in the interest of the family.

KATJA And if the man's earnings are not enough?

Suleiman If he works hard, the man should earn enough that his wife doesn't have to work.

ASTRID But isn't it a bit primitive that only the man has to make a living?

SLIM The woman has to take care of the children.

KATJA What if they don't have children?

ASTRID Or when the children are older and have even left the house?

SLIM Then it should be easy to get the necessities of life.

ASTRID And what can a man expect from his wife in return?

SLIM The man can expect his wife to obey him and be at his disposal.

ASTRID When to be available?

Suleiman When he desires her.

KATJA And if she doesn't feel like it?

SLIM If a man calls his wife into the marriage bed, she rejects him and he spends the night angry with her, the angels curse her until she wakes up in the morning.

ASTRID Is that in the Koran?

Suleiman No, but in the hadiths.

SLIM The wisdom behind financing living expenses is that the wife is bound to her husband and the husband to his wife by the marriage contract.

Suleiman The man depends on his wife if he wants to have sex, and the woman depends on her husband if she wants to be... taken care of.

KATJA And does he have to be... available to her?

ASTRID Do women have equal rights?

SLIM Of course, the husband has to take care of his wife and his concubines equally.

Suleiman Everyone has the right for food, clothing and...

SLIM understands now the question of **ASTRID** Women have the same rights as men to exercise kindness over their wives. The men just stand one level above them. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. 2:228

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

ASTRID And what if the wife doesn't like the man's "kind guidance"?

SLIM The men spend some of their possessions on her. Therefore righteous women are humble and chaste. 4:34

KATJA And what if they resist?

SLIM We should admonish the rebellious wives and avoid them in marriage bed. 4:34

ASTRID And if that's not sufficient?

Suleiman Is the man allowed to beat her.

SLIM But only if she continues to disobey.

Suleiman And just to rebuke.

SLIM Allah is exalted and great. 4:34

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

Suleiman The wife's continued disobedience is reason for divorce and may result in the wife being convicted in court.

ASTRID And you want to warn and protect them.

SLIM It is important that everyone fulfills its role. The woman should obey the man and be a good mother who takes care of the children and the household.

Suleiman Allah has favored man in intelligence and strength and has entrusted him with material duties and responsibilities.

ASTRID Aren't you making it a little to simple?

KATJA Aren't there also smart and strong women?

ASTRID And can't they also take responsibility?

SLIM We should not desire what God has distinguished one of us from the other. Men receive their share based on merit and women receive their share based on merit. We should ask Allah for his mercy, he knows all things. 4:32.

Suleiman The man's superior rationality and impartiality are evident.

ASTRID Thus the woman remains the man's servant.

SLIM The husband is the servant of the entire family.

ASTRID How?

SLIM The man has to take care of the whole family.

Suleiman He is also the slave of society.

KATJA How?

SLIM The husband must accept the work that society offers him.

Suleiman Because he has to earn a living.

SLIM Everyone benefits in some way from Allah's provisions.

Suleiman And everyone has to contribute somehow.

SLIM It's a two-way give and take.

Women's rights

- Suleiman And thus men and women are both equal before Allah.
- SLIM And therefore equitable.
- Suleiman But men and women are physically different and have different strengths and weaknesses.
- SLIM And therefore have different tasks.
- Suleiman The rights of the one result in the duties of the other and vice versa.
- KATJA And what rights do I have as a woman?
- SLIM What rights are important to you?
- ASTRID The right to education, to the free development of one's personality, and to physical integrity.
- SLIM Women have access to education.
- KATJA And what do you have on offer?
- Suleiman The common.
- SLIM And of course the Koran. The girls also have access to the Koran.
- ASTRID Just the Koran?
- Suleiman Also to the hadiths and the sunnah.
- KATJA Sunna?
- SLIM Customs.
- ASTRID And what about the Bible?
- SLIM Do you teach the Koran?
- ASTRID shakes her head.
- Suleiman Then why should we teach the Bible?
- ASTRID Because the Koran refers to the Bible, but not the other way around.
- SLIM Because the Koran didn't even exist in biblical times.
- KATJA And can they also critically engage with the Koran?
- SLIM Why should they?
- Suleiman *provocatively* Who or what do you want to criticize?
- ASTRID The scriptures, interpretations, reports, customs....

SLIM interrupts That's what scholars are for.

ASTRID Only those who have acquired their faith can live accordingly.

Suleiman Or fall away from their faith.

SLIM You can see that with you.

Suleiman The critics often just want to spread doubt and discord.

ASTRID With us we are allowed to ask questions, express our own opinions and criticize.

Suleiman Also criticize the Bible?

ASTRID Also.

SLIM *mockingly* And what does that lead to?

Suleiman Fewer and fewer believe in the Bible.

SLIM Not even in Allah anymore.

ASTRID Some doubt God and God's justice.

SLIM Islam grants women many rights.

ASTRID Women may have rights according to Islam, but do they get their rights in practice?

ASTRID Do they even know what rights they have and can they call for their rights?

KATJA What if the husband treats her badly?

Suleiman Why should he treat her badly?

ASTRID Where there is power, there is also abuse of power.

SLIM Of course, continued unjust and violent behavior is not allowed.

Suleiman And if it does happen, the woman should of course be helped.

ASTRID Only if women are not oppressed, they can develop self-confidence and independence.

SLIM Nobody is completely independent.

ASTRID Everybody should be free to discover, develop and contribute his or her own abilities.

Suleiman Nobody is completely free either.

ASTRID Because the shaping of a woman's living conditions lies primarily in the hands of her father and later in the hands of her husband.

SLIM Family first.

ASTRID And society makes it even difficulter for women.

Suleiman Nobody can have everything.

ASTRID But aren't women disadvantaged?

Suleiman In our society women have the opportunity to participate and work.

SLIM But in righteous society no one can do whatever he or she likes.

Suleiman And that's fine.

SLIM If everyone always could do what he wants...

Suleiman Where freedom exits, there also exists abuse of freedom.

SLIM For some, self-realization is at the top and shared responsibility is at the bottom.

ASTRID Society would benefit from women's knowledge, skills and labor.

Suleiman Do your women want society to benefit from them or do they want to benefit from society?

ASTRID They benefit from society and society benefits from them. A two-way give and take.

Parable of the Sower - Wording

conversation between CHRIST and KARIM Part 2

Swing to CHRIST and KARIM

CHRIST God fittingly prophesied of them: “This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. In vain do they continually worship me, because they teach the commandments of men as doctrines.” Matthew 15:7-9

KARIM What are God’s commandments – today?

CHRIST The light has come into the world, but people love darkness more than light. John 3:19

CHRIST Whoever follows the light will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 8:12

KARIM Where is this light to be found? With the scribes?

CHRIST The scribes and religious leaders close the kingdom to the people. They do not go in themselves, and those who are on their way there prevent them from doing so. Matthew 23:13

KARIM laughing It doesn't seem so easy to enter the kingdom.

CHRIST A sower went out to sow. Some seeds fall along the path and the birds pick them up. Others fall on the rock and as soon as the sun rises they are scorched because they have not taken root. Others fall among the thorns, and the thorns choke them. Only the seed that falls on the excellent soil produces fruit, thirtyfold, sixtyfold, or a hundredfold. Mat13:3-9

CHRIST disappears.

KARIM looks puzzled

ASTRID listening God's word does not always fall on fertile ground.

Requirements for Christians

- KARIM joins again [What do Christians have to give?](#)
- ASTRID Christians have the commandment to love God and their neighbors. John 13:35
- Suleiman That's all?
- ASTRID A highlight are the 10 Commandments from the Old Testament.
- KATJA The New Testament is all about love.
- ASTRID And Jesus gave a lot of advice on how to put the two commandments of love into practice.
- SLIM Muhammad also gave a lot of advice.
- ASTRID The New Testament also helps you grow spiritually.
- KARIM [How do you grow spiritually?](#)
- ASTRID The basis is knowledge and understanding.
- Suleiman Head knowledge alone is not enough.
- ASTRID But only on this basis can we actually love, truly believe, speak truthfully, decide sensibly and act wisely.
- KATJA We have to learn to take responsibility for ourselves and others. This is the only way to grow up.
- ASTRID Many rules and regulations that need to be observed are only for children. And if these rules are nonsensical, or at least perceived as such...
- SLIM Some people have to learn the basic things first.
- ASTRID And some remain children for the rest of their lives.
- Suleiman The writings are valid for a lifetime.
- SLIM And believers allow themselves to be shaped by their scriptures.
- Suleiman above **ASTRID** But most of them let the world shape them.
- SLIM And what kind of people have you produced?
- ASTRID Who do you mean by "you"?
- SLIM Well, you Christians.
- ASTRID Such and such.
- Suleiman *mockingly* More such than such.

Suleiman to **KARIM** Many people do what they want to do, and why? Because they are not afraid of punishment and persecution, because they have the power and the opportunity to do so, because they no longer have a sense of duty or obedience.

KARIM There are others.

SLIM to **KARIM** Some of the People of the Book believe in God and the scriptures. 3:119a

Suleiman They humble themselves before God and do not sell God's signs. 3:119b

SLIM But most are wicked. 3:110

ASTRID There are also sincere Christians.

Suleiman nods in agreement There is an upright fellowship among the People of the Book.

KARIM How can you recognize them?

SLIM They recite the signs of God and prostrate themselves. They believe in God and the Final Judgment, command what is right, forbid what is reprehensible and are quick to do good deeds. Those are among the righteous. 3:113

Justice

KARIM And will they also go to paradise?

Suleiman Allah judges righteously.

ASTRID Only in the afterlife, or also in this world?

SLIM Allah guides the believers on the right path in this world. 2:2

ASTRID But there is still a lot of injustice.

SLIM Not everyone wants to be guided.

ASTRID And those who allow themselves to be guided are often persecuted.

SLIM Since many are not fairly repaid in this world, there must be a day of reckoning in the hereafter. 16:39a

ASTRID This is how you comfort the believers.

SLIM And those who disbelieve will see their error on the Day of Resurrection. 16:39b

ASTRID But then it might be too late?

SLIM They will not escape hellfire. 72:23

Resurrection – Part 1

- KATJA And you are sure that you will be resurrected?
- SLIM Whoever believes in Allah also believes in the Day of Resurrection and the Day of Judgment.
- CHRIST appears Do not be surprised at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out. John 5:28
- ASTRID All in God's memory will be resurrected!?
- CHRIST nods Those who have done good to a resurrection of life, those who have done evil to a resurrection of judgment. John 5:29
- SLIM nods in agreement The dead receive a new body from their creator and judge and experience either the joys of paradise or the torments of hellfire.
- KATJA *skeptical* God resurrects them to torment them?
- Suleiman Everyone should be afraid. Even with death they cannot escape the wrath of God.
- ASTRID This is how you scare people.
- KATJA Like the church in the Middle Ages.
- ASTRID Jesus gave people courage. And gave them a hope.
- CHRIST God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but to save the world by him. Joh 3:17
- ASTRID God certainly wants the best for people.
- CHRIST God so loved the world that he gave his Son that whoever believes in him might have eternal life. John 3:16 disappears
- SLIM *approvingly* Believers don't need to be afraid, only unbelievers do.
- KATJA But do they believe in hell?? disappears and speaks with CHRIST about hell

War with the unbelievers

ASTRID Who is an unbeliever?

SLIM An unbeliever is anyone who does not believe in the only true God - and in the messengers of God.

Suleiman Unbelievers are the enemies of God and therefore also the enemies of the believers. 2:99

SLIM Muhammad led the believers into the fight against the unbelievers.

Suleiman He was a courageous leader.

SLIM And he gave people courage.

Suleiman And hope.

SLIM Muhammad knew about the resurrection of the dead and that believers need not fear.

Suleiman The brave ones go to paradise.

ASTRID This is how he was able to win people for his wars.

Suleiman Muhammad fought for Allah.

ASTRID Had he received the order from God to do this?

Suleiman He fought for the interests of Allah and for the interests of all believers.

ASTRID And did God fight for him?

SLM Allah is with the steadfast. 8:65.66

Suleiman And against the refugees. 33:15,17

SLM It is a sin to break a covenant. 33:15

Suleiman Like the Jewish tribe of Banū Quraiza in the 5th year after Hijra.

ASTRID Hijra?

SLIM Hijra is the migration of Muhammad to Medina.

Suleiman Today's Medina.

SLIM In the year 622.

Suleiman According to the Christian era.

SLIM This is when the Muslim era begins.

Suleiman *proudly* We have our own calendar.

ASTRID What happened back then?

SLIM The unbelieving Meccans had attacked Medina.

ASTRID Why?

Suleiman Muhammad and his followers had been unjustly expelled from Mecca and their homes. 22:39.40

KARIM And that's why they fought back.

SLIM They had the right to do so. 22:39.40

ASTRID And how did they fight back?

KARIM They raided their caravans.

Suleiman But the Meccans had started the war.

ASTRID And the unbelievers did not want to put up with the attacks on their caravans.

KARIM Followed by the trench warfare.

ASTRID Trench warfare?

SLIM To protect the oases outside the city, we dug a ditch.

Suleiman At first the Jews lent us shovels so we could dig the ditch, but during the siege they supplied the Meccans with supplies.

ASTRID *laughing* They may have just been business-minded.

Suleiman Who knows what they would have provided the unbelievers with next. Conversations have already taken place.

ASTRID Maybe they just wanted to mediate.

KARIM The Banū Quraiza lived in Medina along with the Muslims.

ASTRID *confused* And did their besiegers provide with supplies?

KARIM Perhaps they feared that they would later be driven out of Medina themselves by Muhammad.

ASTRID Why should they fear that?

KARIM The other two Jewish tribes had already been driven out.

ASTRID How did the trench warfare end?

Suleiman After two weeks the attackers had to withdraw again without having overcome the trench.

SLIM *laughing* We then laid siege to the Jewish tribe.

Suleiman *laughing* Now they could have needed the supplies themselves.

SLIM After 25 days they had to give up.

Suleiman And then they got their deserved punishment.

SLIM They got what our opponents wanted to do with us.

Suleiman An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. 5:45

KARIM Head for head.

SLIM Like Muhammad had taught.

Suleiman And we had our own city. Medina.

War among believers

- ASTRID** What happened after Muhammad's death?
- SLIM** The Prophet had not appointed a successor.
- Suleiman** His companions elected the general Abu Bakr as his successor.
- SLIM** Abu Bakr was the first of four rightly guided prophets.
- Suleiman** However, he was not recognized by Fatima, Muhammad's daughter, nor initially by Ali, her husband.
- ASTRID** They probably wanted to take control themselves.
- Suleiman** The Shiites believed that the caliph must come from the Prophet's family.
- SLIM** The Sunnis believed that the caliph should be chosen by the people.
- KARIM** Abu Bakr conquered more areas.
- Suleiman** When he died after two years, Umar became caliph.
- KARIM** Umar forbade the time or pleasure Marriage which Muhammad had tolerated. But he was then murdered by an Iranian soldier.
- Suleiman** Afterwards Uthman became caliph.
- SLIM** He determined the pure Koran to be written down.
- KARIM** But was then murdered by rebels.
- Suleiman** Now the way was free for Ali.
- SLIM** However, his caliphate was not recognized by some companions of the prophets.
- Suleiman** This is how the war broke out in 656.
- SLIM** In 34 according to our calendar.
- Suleiman** between him and two prominent companions of the Prophet, and Aisha, the Prophet's widow.
- ASTRID** And how did things end?
- SLIM** Ali eventually won the battle.
- KARIM** But he was then murdered in an assassination.
- Suleiman** Thereafter Muawiya seized the office of caliph.
- SLIM** Who eventually passed it on to his son Yazid.

Suleiman Hussein, Ali's son, did not accept this.

SLIM He opposed Yazid.

Suleiman *enthusiastic* With 72 men he stood up against 10,000.

ASTRID Pretty hopeless.

KARIM Hussein was also killed.

Suleiman For the Shiites he is a martyr.

ASTRID Sounds more like suicide.

Suleiman He could not bear the fact that the Umayyads had seized the caliphship.

ASTRID Some would rather die than submit to others.

KARIM Will those who were killed also go to paradise, and what about those who killed?

Resurrection – Part 2

KARIM to ASTRID What do you think about the resurrection?

ASTRID According to the Bible, those who are called are first raised to life in heaven. Rev 20:6

KARIM And the rest?

ASTRID ... still have to prove themselves. Rev 20:5

KARIM *skeptical* And if they have proven themselves?

ASTRID Will they inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

KARIM Will everyone be resurrected?

CHRIST appears This is the will of the Father, that the Son should resurrect those who believe in Him on the last day. John 6:40

KATJA appears Jesus is the resurrection.

CHRIST and the life. John 11:25a

SLIM Jesus could bring deads to life, but only with God's permission 3:49.

KARIM And was Jesus himself made alive?

SLIM The question is whether he died on the cross at all.

Suleiman And if he didn't die on the cross, then he wasn't resurrected.

SLIM In any case, the Jews neither killed nor crucified him. 4:157

ASTRID That's right, it wasn't "the Jews," it was "the Romans."

SLIM It just seemed so to the Jews. 4:157

ASTRID After all, they had handed Jesus over to the Romans.

SLIM Although they themselves disagree about it. 4:157

ASTRID They also disagreed about whether Jesus was resurrected.

KARIM But didn't God raise him up?

SLIM God raised him. God is powerful and wise. 4:158. 3:55

KATJA What does it mean that God raised?

ASTRID Apparently God took him to heaven.

Suleiman But not at the crucifixion.

ASTRID But 40 days later.

KARIM What has Jesus been doing since then?

CHRIST Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to those whom he wants. John 5:21

SLIM And when should that be?

CHRIST The hour is now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who have heeded will live. John 5:25

Suleiman *mockingly* How can dead people hear him?

ASTRID The dead are people who have no prospect of life.

SLIM As the unbelievers.

ASTRID They haven't grasped real life yet. 1 Ti 6:19

KATJA They must listen to Jesus' words.

CHRIST His words mean spirit and life. John 6:63

CHRIST Whoever listens to this will not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24

Suleiman And who doesn't listen?

CHRIST Anyone who does not listen and accept the word will be judged by the word on the last day. John 12:48

KARIM But, if I listen, can I live forever?

CHRIST This is eternal life, knowing the only true God and His Messenger - Jesus Christ. John 17:3

Trinity

- SLIM You say it yourself!
- Suleiman Jesus is just a messenger and not God.
- SLIM There is no God except Allah. 5:73
- Suleiman Allahu Akbar.
- SLIM Nor is God one of three. 4:171
- Suleiman *approvingly* Allah is One. 5:73
- CHRIST You're right. Our God, is one God, and you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Mar 10:45
- ASTRID Before him there was no God, and after him there will be no God. Isa 43:10
- SLIM to KARIM But the Unbelievers say, "God is one of three." 5:73
- Suleiman to KARIM If they do not stop, a painful punishment will befall them. 5:73
- KARIM Which three?
- ASTRID Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- KARIM What is that supposed to mean?
- ASTRID God reveals himself through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- CHRIST The Son cannot do anything of his own, only what he sees the Father doing. John 5:19
- ASTRID God also reveals Himself through His inspired Word. 2 Timothy 3:16 It says, "He who has seen the Son has also seen the Father." John 14:9

Father - son - children

SLIM God has no son.

KARIM *annoyed* Is it so important whether Jesus is the Son of God or not?

ASTRID Whoever confesses the Son has also the Father. 1 Jo 2:22,23

CHRIST But whoever denies him before men, he will deny him before the Father. Matthew 10:32

KARIM If not God, then who is the father of Jesus?

SLIM No man touched Mary. 19:20

KATJA Someone must have caused her conception.

SLIM Allah creates what He wants. 3:45-48

ASTRID Apparently God caused her conception.

KATJA Can't it be said that God is the father of Jesus?

ASTRID If a man causes a woman to conceive, then he is said to be the father of the child.

SLIM Allah has not taken any child. 25:2

ASTRID God has created a child.

KATJA Isn't it his child then?

KARIM to SLIM Somehow you can say that God is his father, can't you?

SLIM *shaking his head* Jesus is the son of Mary. 19:34

ASTRID If at all. Maybe Mary was just Jesus' surrogate mother.

KARIM What else does the Quran say about Jesus?

SLIM Allah taught him the Scriptures, the Wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel. 3:48

ASTRID Did he also teach them to Muhammad?

SLIM Moses brought the Torah to the Jews, Jesus the Gospel to the Christians, and Muhammad the Koran to the Arabs.

Suleiman Yet we are all children of Abraham.

CHRIST The children of Abraham do the works of Abraham. John 8:39

ASTRID Abraham is the father of believers. Ro 4:11

SLIM We also believe in what was sent down to Abraham, to Ishmael, to Isaac, to Jacob, and to the tribes, and what Moses and Jesus received, and what the prophets received from the Lord. We don't differentiate between them. 2:136

KATJA *shaking her head* But what if God makes a difference? disappears.

ASTRID Ishmael was also to become a great nation. But Isaac was the child of promise. Gen 21:18 From him would come God's people. Gen 26:3,4

KARIM to SLIM Is that correct?

SLIM Allah had favored the children of Israel over the other inhabitants of the earth. 2:122

ASTRID And he preferred Isaac.

Suleiman But the firstborn was Ishmael.

ASTRID Ishmael was the one from the unfree maidservant; she produced children of slavery. Isaac was from Sarah, the free woman with the promise. She brought forth children for freedom. Galatians 4:22,23

SLIM We are free and have never been anyone's slaves. John 8:35

Suleiman We will never be anyone's slaves either. John 8:33

SLIM We'd rather die. John 8:33

CHRIST Only those whom the Son sets free are actually free. John 8:36

Suleiman We don't need anyone to set us free.

CHRIST Anyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. John 8:34

SLIM We are not sinners either.

CHRIST Whoever abides in his word, the truth will set him free. John 8:32 disappears

ASTRID The children of God enjoy freedom. Ro 8:21

KARIM Who is a child of God?

ASTRID Whoever receives the Son and believes in him receives the allowance to become a child of God. John 1:14

KARIM And are you a child of God?

ASTRID That's up to God's Spirit. Ro 8:6

KARIM And everyone can become a child of God?

ASTRID Anyone whom the father accepts as his child.

Suleiman We cannot become children of God, but only servants of God.

ASTRID The children of God are also ready to serve God.

SLIM No one in the heavens or on earth may approach the All-Merciful in any other way than as His servant. 19:94

ASTRID But God can choose someone?

SLIM Allah chooses whomever he wants. 2:106

Koran - Bible

ASTRID and **SLIM** want **KARIM**. **SLIM** wants to avoid the conversation.

Suleiman And he chose Muhammad.

SLIM And He revealed the book of the truth to us. It confirms what has been before. 3:3a

Suleiman to **KARIM** Muhammad is the seal of the prophets. 33:40

ASTRID Jesus is the seal of God's promises. 2. Cor 1:20

KARIM And what has been before?

Suleiman disappears (seeks **CHRIST** and **KATJA**)

SLIM Previously, He sent down the Torah and the Gospel as guidance for the people. 3:3b,4. Later he revealed the Koran. 3:7a

ASTRID Has he also revealed its meaning?

SLIM Most verses are clear. Only a few are ambiguous. 3:7a

KARIM How can the ambiguous verses be understood?

SLIM Only Allah knows what these verses mean. 3:7b

ASTRID Certainly the ambiguous verses can be misunderstood.

SLIM looks at **ASTRID** Some would like to misunderstand them. 3:7

KARIM Why should they want that?

SLIM They want to mislead. 3:7

ASTRID But with God's Spirit the verses can be understood.

KARIM With God's Spirit?

ASTRID With God's help.

SLIM The right teachers.

SLIM to **KARIM** But there are people of the Scriptures who want to mislead. 3:70

ASTRID *approvingly* They themselves have been misled, now they are misleading others.

SLIM And don't even notice. 3:70

ASTRID Or they simply say what others expect of them.

KARIM But there are also sincere teachers?

SLIM If anyone has doubts, he could ask those who have read the Scripture before. 10:94

ASTRID Or he could consult the scriptures himself and do his own research.

SLIM When he has doubts.

ASTRID May one doubt?

SLIM to KARIM We should not doubt the revealed truth. 10:94.95

ASTRID So can we trust the Bible?

SLIM The scriptures have been corrupted.

ASTRID The Scriptures themselves or just their meaning? Gal 1:8

KARIM *smiling* In any case, the Scriptures are taught differently.

SLIM to KARIM There are people of the Book who cover truth with falsehood and knowingly hide the truth. 3:71

ASTRID But isn't it written in your scriptures that there is nothing that can change Allah's words? 6:34.

SLIM The corruptions have not remained hidden from Allah. Allah is all-powerful and all-wise. 3:6

SLIM Allahu Akbar.

ASTRID And can we trust the Koran?

SLIM The Quran was transmitted word for word to Muhammad by God.

ASTRID By God?

SLIM By God's angel.

KARIM Why didn't the angel himself convey the message to the people?

SLIM Allah sends whomever He wants. With His Message.

ASTRID And Muhammad then passed the message on to the people?

SLIM He came to them with clear evidence, but they claimed it was fraud. 61:7

ASTRID What clear evidence?

SLIM Are you also claiming it's fraud?

ASTRID I just can't see the clear evidence.

SLIM Whoever God wants, he lets go astray and whoever he wants, he leads on the right path. 5:40

ASTRID Like Muhammad?

SLIM Muhammad recited the angel and others wrote it down later.

KARIM But is there also a truth outside the Koran?

SLIM Truth can also be found in the Scriptures. 2:214

KARIM In the Torah and the Gospel?

SLIM Even there. 3:3

ASTRID Do you also read these books?

SLIM to KARIM Every people should have its own book. Muhammad addressed those who did not have a book.

ASTRID Jesus addressed those who had a book.

KARIM The Jews?

ASTRID nods And all other peoples. However, he left it to his followers to spread the Gospel.

SLIM And Muhammad left it to us to spread Islam.

ASTRID *smiling* But not by sword?

SLIM *smiling* No.

ASTRID Or by children?

SLIM Children are a blessing from God. 17:6

KARIM And the future of the family.

Suleiman appears And of the state.

ASTRID And of Islam?

SLIM They can bring prosperity and security to all of them.

Apostasy

- Suleiman That's why we raise our children in the faith. To **KARIM** Their children are running away from them.
- ASTRID** you hinder them from running away.
- SLIM** Faith gives people stability. We make sure that they remain in the faith; your "believers" run away from you.
- ASTRID** And you lock up "the believers" so that they can't run away.
- KARIM** What happens to those who "run away"?
- ASTRID** When they want to run away...
- Suleiman ...they have to face the consequences.
- SLIM** God punishes them with the greatest severity in afterlife. 88:23-26
- ASTRID** And who tempts others to - run away?
- Suleiman will be punished in this life.
- ASTRID** How?
- Suleiman With the greatest severity.
- ASTRID** This reminds me of the Inquisition in i`the Middle Age in Europe.
- KARIM** In what way?
- ASTRID** At that time, the church punished apostates - with the greatest severity.
- Suleiman Because they wanted to entice others to apostasy.
- ASTRID** They could not continue to support the wrong and wanted to free others from it.
- Suleiman But what did they accomplish?
- ASTRID** The church could not prevent the Reformation.
- Suleiman And what did the Reformation bring except confusion and wars?
- ASTRID** It led to the Age of Enlightenment.
- SLIM** to **KARIM** Anyone who turns away from Islam will remain in hell forever. 2:217
- ASTRID** In the Middle Ages, the church also frightened people with such sayings.
- Suleiman We don't want to scare people.

SLIM We just want to protect them.

Suleiman And warn.

SLIM Allah notices anyone who wants to lead others away from the right path.

ASTRID Maybe you just have a problem with deviant opinions.

KARIM What's so bad if someone has a different opinion?

ASTRID Things only get bad when someone spreads a "different opinion".

Suleiman Anything that does not conform to the teachings of Islam violates public policy. Islam is the state religion and Sharia is the basis of all laws.

ASTRID And what about freedom of opinion and conscience?

Suleiman It's not about this. Apostasy means attacking the Islamic state and social system.

ASTRID So it's not about faith and truth at all.

Suleiman What means truth? It cannot be tolerated if anyone publicly attacks Islam.

KARIM Is that why Christians are not allowed to evangelize?

Suleiman The mission ban protects our brothers from apostasy.

ASTRID Or from the truth?

SLIM We also talk about God. But we don't force our beliefs on anyone. Everyone can make own inquiries.

ASTRID How?

SLIM He can ask his Imam.

CHRIST and KATJA appear

CHRIST appears Every student who is fully instructed will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40

ASTRID Things turn out differently when a blind man leads a blind man. Mat 15:14

Jews

- KARIM I don't want to be blind, I want to see - God.
- CHRIST God is a spirit,
- SLIM In the resurrection the righteous will see God. 75:22-23
- CHRIST ...and those who worship him must worship with spirit and truth. John 4:24
- SLIM And not with images. To KARIM Their churches are full of images.
- Suleiman to KARIM and KATJA Allah is the only one to be worshiped.
- CHRIST You worship what you do not know. John 4:22
- KARIM What do you think?
- CHRIST Salvation comes from the Jews. John 4:22
- SLIM But certainly not through the Jews.
- CHRIST The kingdom was taken from them. Matthew 21:43
- Suleiman And who gets the kingdom?
- CHRIST The nation that produces its fruit. Matthew 21:43
- KARIM Why was it taken from the Jews?
- ASTRID God granted the fig tree Israel to produce the expected fruit for three years, but then its time was up. Luke 13:6-9
- KARIM What fruits did God expect?
- CHRIST To believe in the Son of God. John 6:40
- ASTRID But after three years the time of goodwill was over.
- CHRIST Fruit should never come again from this tree!
- ASTRID And the fig tree withered instantly.
- CHRIST to KARIM Faith can move mountains.
- ASTRID The Jewish nationalistic religious system had served its purpose, but its time had expired.
- SLIM No nation can hasten or delay its appointed time 23:44
- CHRIST Instead of handing over the fruit to the owner of the vineyard, the tenants even killed his son, the heir. And so the owner of the vineyard brought destruction upon them and leased the vineyard to those who would deliver the fruits to him at the right time. Mat 21:33-41

KARIM The Jews are no longer God's favorites? 5:18

SLIM If they were his favorites, he wouldn't punish them. 5:18

Suleiman Nevertheless, they continued to claim to be the friends of Allah. 62:6a.

SLIM And excluded others. 62:6b.

ASTRID They had been God's chosen people and a holy nation. Ex 19:5,6

KARIM And how did that show up?

Suleiman God gave them kings and prophets. 5:20.

KARIM So he preferred them. 2:122

ASTRID Is God allowed to favor anyone?

SLIM Allah chooses whomever he wants.

Suleiman That's why he chose Muhammad.

ASTRID But God also rejects whomever he wants.

Suleiman And that is why he rejected the Jews.

ASTRID The religious system of the Jews.

SLIM They still claim to be Allah's chosen people, but they fear death. They know their sins, and God will let them know at death. 62:6-8

Jesus' death, ransom, sin

- KARIM** What sins?
- SLIM** The Jews handed over the Messiah to the Romans. Matthew 27:2
- KARIM** Why did they do so?
- ASTRID** Because he claimed to be the son of God.
- Suleiman** Then he should have kept silent.
- KARIM** And why didn't he stay silent?
- ASTRID** Then he would have denied his father.
- SLIM** God has no son.
- ASTRID** That's what the trial also said.
- KARIM** And so are the Jews actually responsible for his death?
- ASTRID** Someone had to make sure that things happened the way they had to.
- KARIM** What had to happen?
- ASTRID** Jesus had to be killed.
- SLIM** Who says that?
- ASTRID** The scriptures. Jesus himself also predicted it.
- CHRIST** He would suffer many things and be condemned and killed by the leaders of the people, the chief priests and the scribes. Mat 16:21
- Suleiman** Was he killed at all, or was someone else crucified in his place? 4:158
- ASTRID** Someone else?
- KARIM** I heard that too.
- SLIM** Why would Allah allow his righteous prophet to be killed?
- Suleiman** Such a painful death on the cross?
- ASTRID** The word about the cross is foolishness to some, but to others it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18
- CHRIST** The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many. Mat 20:28
- KARIM** What is that supposed to mean?
- ASTRID** The first couple sinned and lost paradise and the prospect of everlasting life.

- SLIM Well, Adam and Eve made a mistake, but they sincerely repented, and God forgave them. 20:122
- ASTRID But they no longer had access to the tree of life. Gen 3:22 Finally they became old and sick and died.
- Suleiman *provocative* And we are born as sinners because of Adam's sin?
- ASTRID Even if their descendants did not inherit sin, they still inherited the consequences of sin. They were separated from God, the life-giving provision, and paradise.
- KARIM And what this has to do with the ransom?
- ASTRID Adam forfeited his perfect life through his sin and sold his descendants into sin and death. Makes a downward gesture with his left open hand. But another perfect life could redeem humanity from sin and death. Makes a downward gesture with his open right hand. At the same time, the open left hand goes back up a little. Jesus paid the corresponding ransom with his perfect sacrifice. 1 Ti 2:5,6
- SLIM Nobody can die for another one. 35:18a
- ASTRID *approvingly* No ordinary person can pay such a high ransom for someone else. Psalm 49:7,8 But a perfect man. Heb 4:15
- Suleiman The doctrine of ransom gave Christians a false sense of security and they did whatever they wanted.
- SLIM Everyone has to bear their own burden. 35:18b
- SLIM and Suleiman move away a little. They talk to each other and watch what is happening.
- ASTRID Jesus had to pay with his life so that people can be freed from sin and death.
- KARIM But how can we be freed from sin?
- ASTRID Under the Law Covenant the Jews had to offer the blood of flawless sacrificial animals year after year so that God would forgive their sins.
- KARIM Animals had to die for their sins?
- ASTRID Later Jesus had to die. His more precious blood makes possible the forgiveness of sins once and for all. Heb 10:14

Last Supper

- KATJA to KARIM That's why Christians celebrate the Lord's Supper with bread and wine.
- CHRIST They should do this again and again to commemorate Jesus' sacrificial death. Luke 22:19
- KATJA The bread represents his body. Luke 22:19
- CHRIST His life, which he gave for the benefit of the world. Luke 22:19
- KATJA And the wine for his blood!
- CHRIST Which was shed for the benefit of many for the remission of sins. Mat 26:28
- KARIM And what should I do?
- ASTRID *laughing* Drink from the cup.
- KARIM Cup?
- CHRIST The cup with the wine represents the New Covenant by virtue of his blood.
- ASTRID God places his law within people and writes it on their hearts. He becomes their God and they become his people. He forgives their transgressions and remembers their sin no more. Jer 31:33,34
- CHRIST Anyone who feeds on Jesus' flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life. John 6:54
- KARIM *incredulous* What does he have to do?
- ASTRID Believe in the sacrifice of Jesus and listen to him. John 3:36
- KARIM And what about those who don't believe?
- CHRIST Whoever does not believe is already condemned because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18
- KATJA And what about those who don't listen to him?
- CHRIST Whoever does not obey the Son will not see life. John 3:36
- ASTRID With a view to SLIM Everyone has to bear his own burden. Gal 6:5
- CHRIST And take up his cross. Matthew 16:24
- KARIM But did Jesus have to suffer like that?

ASTRID The first people failed the test and were unfaithful to God, Jesus passed the test and remained faithful to God. Ro 5:19

KARIM Was Jesus resurrected after his death?

KATJA He has raised up others, shall he not be raised up himself? 3.50

CHRIST After three days he was resurrected, he is alive and has sat down to the right of God.

ASTRID Without the death on a cross, God's Son is a deceiver.

KATJA And without the resurrection, God's word is a lie.

KARIM looking at SLIM questioningly But the gospel is true and Jesus is a true prophet!?

Jesus – the Messiah

SLIM is confronted with the statements about Jesus in the Koran.

SLIM and Suleiman approach.

SLIM *reluctantly* Jesus was a pure and righteous prophet. 3:45.46

ASTRID He was the promised Messiah.

KARIM to SLIM The Messiah?

SLIM That's what it says in the scriptures. 4:171,172

KARIM What does Messiah mean?

ASTRID Anointed One. Future kings used to have anointing oil on their heads.

KARIM And Jesus was anointed?

ASTRID Even with the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:38

Suleiman We also have a Messiah.

SLIM We not.

Suleiman But we. Mahdi, the 12th Iman, who lives in the shadows, he will reveal himself in the time of the end.

ASTRID Many prophecies about the Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus.

KARIM Which ones?

ASTRID His place of his birth.

KATJA Bethlehem.

ASTRID The kind of his birth.

SLIM Through the Virgin Mary. 19:19-22

ASTRID The year of his baptism - and the kind of his baptism.

KATJA With holy spirit.

ASTRID The day of his death.

KATJA On Good Friday.

ASTRID And the manner of his death.

KARIM On the cross.

SLIM But Jesus was not the Son of God, but only a messenger and servant.
4:173

KARIM And what was Jesus sent to do?

ASTRID To proclaim the gospel.

SLIM *hesitantly* Allah gave him the gospel, which contains guidance and light
for those who fear God. 5:46

Comparison of Jesus and Muhammad

Suleiman Later Allah sent his last prophet, Muhammad.

ASTRID For what reason?

SLIM to KARIM The Christians had deviated from the truth and he should point it out.

ASTRID So that they turn back?

Suleiman So that we don't join them.

SLIM Allah has given us an own prophet.

Suleiman The most fabulous, Muhammad.

SLIM And an own shrine, the Kaaba, an own holiday, Friday as a day of community prayer. And finally an own book, the Koran.

Suleiman Allah has given us our own new religion.

ASTRID This reminds me of the child who, like his two older siblings, absolutely wants to be own wanted toys. And so the child started screaming until he finally got his own toy. After that, he no longer wanted to play with his siblings.

KARIM How that?

ASTRID He was afraid that his siblings would take the new toy away from him.

ASTRID Maybe no one wants to take anything away from you, but rather give something.

KATJA Something better.

SLIM Thanks, we'll stick to the Koran.

ASTRID And what about Jesus?

Suleiman We have our own messenger.

KATJA But do you also have Jesus?

SLIM Jesus was not sent to us.

Suleiman But to the children of Israel. Mat 10:5

ASTRID But Jesus wanted all nations to hear the Good News.

SLIM They are already hearing the message of paradise from us.

Suleiman People just have to submit to God.

KATJA And what about Jesus?

SLIM We must only submit to Allah.

Suleiman And no one else.

ASTRID And no “messenger” either?

SLIM We don't worship Jesus.

Suleiman to KARIM For them, Jesus is God.

ASTRID For some.

KARIM I thought he was the son of God?

ASTRID God means mighty. And Jesus is a mighty king, and therefore also a God. John 1:1

CHRIST He is even King of Kings. Rev 19:16

SLIM There is only one Good.

ASTRID One Almighty Good.

CHRIST Of course the father is taller than the son. John 14:28

ASTRID But Jesus is the God-ordained King over the earth.

SLIM *mockingly* And when will he begin to reign as king?

Suleiman So that we too can go and give homage to him? Mat 2:8

KARIM How did Jesus prove that he is the Messiah?

ASTRID Jesus performed many signs.

KARIM Which ones?

ASTRID Isn't it in your scriptures?

SLIM He healed blind ones, lepers, and even raised the dead. 5:110

Suleiman But he could only do this with Allah's permission. 5:110

KATJA to KARIM In the New Testament there are many such miraculous deeds.

KARIM But these are extraordinary signs.

ASTRID Nevertheless, most people did not confess to the Messiah.

KARIM Why?

ASTRID They feared being excluded from the community.
to Suleiman The leaders had threatened them, or to SLIM warned them.

KATJA They were probably concerned about their power and their prestige.

KARIM Always the same.

ASTRID Jesus also uttered many prophecies, many of which have already been fulfilled.

KARIM Did Muhammad also utter prophecies?

SLIM Of course, Muhammad also prophesied.

KARIM For example?

SLIM He predicted the victory of the Christian Byzantians over the Unbelievers. 30:1-4

Suleiman Even though they had just been defeated.

SLIM Should they win in a few years.

Suleiman And that's how it happened.

ASTRID And when was it fulfilled?

SLIM In Muhammad's lifetime.

ASTRID And when was the Koran written down? Also in Muhammad's lifetime?

Suleiman What do you mean by that?

SLIM *indignant* These are the prophetic words of the Messenger of God.

KARIM What prophecies did Jesus foretell?

ASTRID For example, the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple. Within his generation.

CHRIST When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that her desolation is at hand; those who are in the mountains shall not enter it, and those who are in the city shall come out of her. Luke 21:20,21

KARIM How could they go out when the city was surrounded?

ASTRID The Romans had already entered the city and even reached the temple...

CHRIST They stood at the "Holy Place". Mat 24:15

ASTRID ... but then withdrawn again for inexplicable reason.

CHRIST Because of the chosen ones, the days were shortened. Mat 24:22

ASTRID But the Romans returned three years later and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. As Jesus announced.

CHRIST No stone will be left unturned. disappears

SLIM Jesus also announced a messenger to the children of Israel. 61:6

Suleiman *approvingly* Jesus announced a helper.

ASTRID The Holy Spirit, who should teach all things to his followers and remind them of all the things he had taught. John 14:26

Muhammad – The Messenger

- KATJA Did Muhammad remind the people of what Jesus had taught?
- ASTRID Did he even know what Jesus had taught?
- KARIM Difficult without an Arabic Bible translation.
- KATJA Then he had to rely on what others told him.
- ASTRID This explains why the Jews rejected him and he rejected them.
- Suleiman They rejected the Messenger of God.
- KARIM What does the Quran say about them?
- SLIM The Jews broke the covenant, so We cursed them and hardened their hearts. They twisted the words and forgot the admonition. To KARIM You will hear about her infidelity again and again. 5:13
- ASTRID And that's why Muhammad was allowed to drive out the Jews?
- Suleiman The land belongs to Allah and His Messenger. 8:1
- ASTRID And what about Christians?
- Suleiman They also rejected the Messenger of God.
- KARIM What does the Quran say about them?
- SLIM We made a covenant with those who claimed to be Christians, but they also forgot the admonitions. So we aroused enmity and hatred among them. To KARIM Until the Day of Resurrection, Allah will remind them of what they used to do. 5:14
- KATJA Jews and Christians rejected Muhammad and he rejected them.
- Suleiman The false Jews and the false Christians.
- SLIM They disregarded and distorted the scriptures.
- ASTRID Perhaps others distorted the scriptures?
- Suleiman Nobody is allowed to speak against the Koran.
- SLIM Or against Allah's Messenger.
- Suleiman *threatening* Otherwise we will turn against them. 4:116
- SLIM Woe to those who wage war against Allah and His Messengers. 5:33
- ASTRID And you are not at war with the Messenger Jesus?
- Suleiman We are not at war with Jesus.

KATJA Does Jesus see it that way too? join in [KARIM](#) off

Parable of the Sower - Resolution

- KARIM What does the parable of the sower mean?
- CHRIST *laughing* Happy are those who are aware of their spiritual needs. Mat 5:3
- KARIM So what?
- CHRIST *beaming half into the audience* Keep asking, and it will be given to you; seek continually, and ye shall find; keep knocking and it will be opened to you. Mat 7:7,8
- KATJA looks at KARIM He who asks receives.
- KARIM So, please!
- CHRIST Whoever hears the word of the kingdom but does not keep it in his heart it was sown by the way.
Whoever hears it and receives it with joy, but tribulation or persecution causes him to stumble, it was sown on the rock.
Whoever hears the word, but the cares of this world and the deceptive power of wealth choke it, it has been sown among thorns.
As for the one who was sown on excellent soil, he is the one who hears the word and finally brings forth fruit, a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold. Mat 13:19-23
- KATJA So don't get distracted.
- CHRIST nods in agreement No one who has put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62
- KARIM *laughing* So don't look back.
- CHRIST *into the audience* The lamp of the body is the eye. If the eye is pure, the whole body will be full of light; but if the eye is evil, the whole body will be dark. *Warning* If in reality the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! Mat 6:22,23
- KATJA Will Jesus come back again?
- CHRIST As lightning comes from the east and shines to the west, so is the presence of the Son of Man. Mat 24:26

End Jesus and the Koran

There are two different versions of how the play can end.

Version A – All-Out Attack

ASTRID defends Jesus

ASTRID to **SLIM** and **Suleiman** Jesus is referred to as the Son of God throughout the New Testament, he himself confessed it and even God refers to him as his son. But you say, “No, God has no son”.

ASTRID Or what about Jesus' death on the cross? The death of the Messiah was announced in the Old Testament, Jesus repeatedly spoke of his impending death. Finally he went to Jerusalem to be killed. All four gospels report this. But you say: “It only appeared so to the Jews”.

ASTRID Or what about the resurrection of Jesus?
According to the scriptures and many witnesses, Jesus rose from the dead on the 3rd day after his sacrificial death. That is why we can rise and live. But you say: “Jesus did not die on the cross and he was not resurrected”.

ASTRID Or what about the teachings and commandments of Jesus? There are no statements, teachings, parables or prophecies of Jesus in the Koran at all. He himself honored God's Word by studying it, quoting from it frequently, building upon it in his teachings, and fulfilling it in his life. But you say, “He is one prophet among many”.

ASTRID Or what about the life and work of Jesus? There are no deeds, healings, resurrections and other miracles of Jesus to be found in the Koran. The Bible tells about many. But you say, “He was just a human being, like others”.

ASTRID Or what about Jesus' commission to go into all the world, teach people, make disciples and baptize them? But you say, “It is enough if people hear the Good News of Paradise from us!”. This way you prevent people from hearing and understanding God's Word and being baptized. This is what the Antichrist does.

SLIM and **Suleiman** gradually leave the room.

ASTRID You are not only waging war against Jesus, you are waging war against God and his children. And why? Because you can't stand the truth.

Version B – Counterattack

Dispute between ASTRID and the Muslims

ASTRID to **SLIM** and **Suleiman** Jesus is referred to as the Son of God throughout the New Testament, he himself confessed this and even God himself refers to him as his son.

SLIM Jesus is not the Son of God.

Suleiman But the son of Mary.

SLIM Jesus did not call himself God.

Suleiman But you claim: Jesus is God!

ASTRID Or what about Jesus' death on the cross? The death of the Messiah was announced in the Old Testament, Jesus repeatedly spoke of his impending death. Finally he went to Jerusalem to be killed. All four gospels report this.

SLIM To the Jews it only seemed as if Jesus had been crucified.

Suleiman In fact, someone else was killed.

SLIM Jesus didn't have to die for us.

Suleiman Nobody can die for another.

ASTRID Or what about the resurrection of Jesus? According to the scriptures and many witnesses, Jesus rose from the dead on the 3rd day after his sacrificial death. This is the only reason why we can rise and live.

SLIM Jesus did not die on the cross

Suleima That's why he wasn't resurrected. He was raised. 3:55

ASTRID Or what about the teachings and commandments of Jesus? There are no statements, teachings, parables or prophecies of Jesus in the Koran at all. But he himself honored God's Word by studying it, quoting from it frequently, building upon it in his teachings, and fulfilling it in his life.

SLIM Jesus is just a prophet.

Suleiman All prophets are important.

SLIM Muhammad is the most outstanding prophet.

Suleiman And he is the last prophet.

ASTRID Or what about the life and work of Jesus? There are no deeds, healings, resurrections or other miracles of Jesus to be found in the Koran.

SLIM Jesus was a good man.

Suleiman He could also perform miracles with God's help.

SLIM But other prophets could also perform miracles.

Suleiman And raise the dead.

ASTRID Or what about Jesus' commission to go into all the world, teach people, make disciples and baptize them?

SLIM We teach people and help them become servants of Allah.

Suleiman You are already hearing the Good News of Paradise from us!

ASTRID You prevent people from hearing God's Word, understanding it, being baptized and becoming God's children.

SLIM God has no children.

Suleiman We must approach God only as his servants.

SLIM and Suleiman gradually leave the room.

ASTRID You are not only waging war against Jesus, you are waging war against God and his children.

SLIM You are waging war against God's Messenger.

Suleiman And against the Holy Koran.

Appendix – Summary – Conversation

Afterwards, a conversation can take place with those involved or viewers.

ASTRID Maybe we'll summarize. Where do Christians and Muslims agree and where do they differ?

SLIM I think we differ only slightly.

Suleiman In little things.

SLIM We all believe in Abraham.

Suleiman And to the prophets.

SLIM To Moses, Mary and Jesus.

Suleiman And to the One true God.

KATJA And who is Jesus to you?

SLIM Jesus was a righteous messenger of Allah.

Suleiman Jesus could perform signs with God's permission.

ASTRID Who is Muhammad to you?

SLIM God revealed the Koran to Muhammad.

Suleiman Muhammad is the last messenger of God.

ASTRID And what do you think about the scriptures?

SLIM The Bible contains guidance for Jews and Christians. But it has been falsified.

Suleiman The Quran contains guidance for Muslims. And it has been preserved.

KARIM How important is religious freedom to you?

SLIM Every believer must be able to practice his religion freely.

Suleiman No believer should be lured away from his religion.

KATJA Which commandments do I have to observe?

SLIM There are the 5 pillars in Islam.

ASTRID In Christianity there is the commandment of love.

KARIM How do I become a Christian?

ASTRID By getting baptized.

KATJA And how do I become a Muslim?

Suleiman By reciting the Creed.

KATJA What duties do I have as a woman?

SLIM Obey your husband and raise your children.

KARIM What duties do I have as a man?

Suleiman To guide and provide for the family.

ASTRID What happens after death?

SLIM We believe in the resurrection. And of eternal paradise for believers.

Suleiman And eternal hell for the unbelievers.

ASTRID And what do you expect in the future?

SLIM Jesus will come again and eliminate the evil.

Suleiman Mahdi will reveal himself and eliminate injustice.

End