



A Bar Mitzvah for Muhammad: The Religions of the Book

Cyril Glasse

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According to Tradition, the revelation of the Koran began on the 27th night of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting in a lunar calendar. By a remarkable coincidence, the 27th night of the Manichean month of fasting in a luni-solar calendar, was also special: the Feast of the Empty Throne, a vigil celebrating the death and resurrection of Mani, the founder of Manicheism. Mani came back to life on a five level throne representing, in Zoroastrianism, the Five Levels of Reality, and in Manicheism, the five levels of the Religious Hierarchy or Manichean priesthood. When he came back to life, he was invisible to most people; he was only visible to the Chosen Ones, the Elite.

In the year 583 AD these two dates, the 27th of Ramadan, and the 27th of the Manichean month of fasting, coincided. Ramadan, the lunar month, began on 30/31 January which was also the beginning of the Manichean month which commemorated Mani's imprisonment by the Persian King. At the end of that month, Mani died. But his death or nirvana (symbolized in the lunar month before the Spring Equinox as the disappearance of the Moon into the Sun), was followed three days later by his return to divine existence in his Parinirvana (symbolized by the appearance of the new crescent Moon after conjunction).

This Feast of the Empty Throne was celebrated by the Manicheans in their centers, including the Iraqi city of Hirah, which is today Kufah, the burial place of Ali and one of the two centers of Shiism along with Kerbala where Ali's son Husayn is buried. In 583 Muhammad was thirteen years old. His uncle, Abu Talib would have gone to Hirah as a merchant to trade because Mani's Bema or Empty Throne ceremony was one of the big annual events of the year and would have attracted a lot of people and a market. Abu Talib would have taken his orphan nephew, Muhammad, who was his ward, with him because Muhammad was now thirteen, an adult, and had to take care of himself. Abu Talib could introduce Muhammad to Iraqi business contacts. In Hirah, Muhammad would learn about other people's religions, as part of his education. Abu Talib's responsibility towards his nephew was ending; Muhammad could see the religious ceremonies of the Manicheans, and perhaps even be dropped off with the sect. Muhammad's name is actually an initiatic name, a name which appears in the Gospel of John: "the Paraclete." This shows that he did join a Baptizing Sect. Also, the Koran is actually filled with passages resembling the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Beliefs of Manicheism are also an adaptation of the beliefs of the Baptizing Sects, in Radical Dualist form. The Baptizing Sects are known as Essenes, Ebionites, Therapeutae in the West, and as Sabians, Elkhasites, and Bathers, in the East. They still exist in the form of the Mandaean of Iraq and Iran, a people under threat and in need of a safe homeland. The Baptizing Sects, in their strictest form, were celibate, so they took in abandoned children and orphans to keep themselves from going extinct. Three orphans adopted by the Baptizers became the founders of new universal forms of the Baptizing Sects. The first is the Teacher of Righteousness of the Dead Sea Scrolls, better known as Jesus the Messiah. The second is Mani, who claimed to be the child of Parthian Kings, and who adapted his sect, the Elkhasites, into a religion which went from Spain and France to Rome and to China. What he created as a Gnostic synthesis, is really a kind of religious virus that still exists everywhere today, where it existed 1700 years ago, but in disguise, such as the Alawites of Syria or the Lamaist Buddhists of Inner Asia.

Muhammad was the third orphan. These are the stories of three orphans, and the Sect which adopted them, and the religions they created. It is also the story of the Baptizing Sects themselves, which were a mixture of Babylonianism, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism, a synthesis religion which was created when Cyrus the Persian

conquered Babylon, in 539 BC.

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