What impressed me most in Islam is its uncompromising conception of the Unity of God and Brotherhood of mankind. The present day world is groping in the dark and yearning for peace but I am convinced that it cannot have it until it forsakes human-worship and turns to the One True God. Only through a belief in One God mankind can unite into one Brotherhood and cast away the shackles of ideological differences which are keeping them apart..

The God presented by Islam is the Living God who speaks with His servants even now. This idea had also a profound effect on me and I experienced its truth in my own life. Through my faith in Islam I have been blessed with true dreams and with sweet speech of God.

I am indebted to the literature produced by the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement furnishing me with an appreciation of the beauties of Islam which animates the soul morally and lifts it to the highest spiritual glories.

OUR SISTER, MISS E. M. VAN VEEN OF HOLLAND LOST HER FAITH IN CHRISTIANITY DUE TO ITS DOGMATISM. THE IDEA THAT BY DYING ON CROSS CHRIST HAD ATONED FOR HER SINS NEVER APPEALED TO HER. MOREOVER THE PRACTICE OF INEQUALITY IN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES DID NOT AGREE WITH HER CONCEPTION OF A COMMON BROTHERHOOD. SO SHE SEARCHED FOR A FAITH WHICH COULD SATISFY HER AND FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS ISLAM. SHE SAYS :

I was brought up, as so many youngsters of these days, without religion. So when I began to think about the existence of God and the way and the necessity of worshipping Him, there were no links in my mind with correct or wrong dogmas.



How it happened that I started to feel that there was a God will not be discussed here, but it was the commencement of my way to Islam.

This way started by asking myself, what is right and what is wrong, so I began to live by the grace of my conscience; but I stumbled many times, so that I looked around me for a help, a guide.

I bought the Bible, and tried to find my way, but too many questions arose and remained unanswered, too many doubts came up in my mind when I compared the Bible with itself and with the daily practice in the Christian churches.

Where could I find the equality of people? Certainly not in the Christian churches.

How is it possible that someone else is responsible for, and can wash away my own sins? The theory of the expiatory sacrifice of Jesus did not touch my heart. I would never be able to believe that babies were born in sin, so they needed to be baptised to become clean again etc.

I started to look for another way to come nearer to God. I consolidated my own feelings and ideas and with this at hand I found my way towards Islam and into it. In Islam I found put into practice the idea of complete equality of mankind. To stand shoulder to shoulder with known and unknown people, makes you feel for once and for ever that you belong to one brotherhood with the only purpose to worship God for your own blessing and for the blessing of mankind as the final result. Only then I could feel as a spiritual child, together with the other children of One God.

No hired chairs, or front places for socially more important people, but God as the focus of thoughts of all the people who had come for prayer, as the only way to come nearer to God. In Islam I found emphasised the thought which I had already for such a long time, namely the responsibility for my own deeds to myself. In Islam I found that I was not obliged to believe in unnatural wonders.

When I read the Holy Qur'an, I admit I did not at once understand all the words as I understand now and as I will understand in the future, but I felt that the words I read were clear and clean and of a divine origin which thrilled me and which will thrill me for the rest of my life.

May I invite everybody who is honestly and eagerly looking forward for the Truth to remember these words from God, written in the Holy Qur'an:

> *"When My servants ask about Me, tell them that I am near.*
>
> *"I answer the supplicant whenever he calls Me, only let him do My bidding and have faith in Me, so that he may be rightly guided."*