

Review: Bilquis Sheikh, *I Dared to Call Him Father: The Miraculous Story of a Muslim Woman's Encounter With God*, Chosen Books, Grand Rapids, MI, 1978 (2003 edn.)

Pages: 190

Faith Which Risked Everything

As a prominent Muslim in 97% Islamic Pakistan, Bilquis risked everything to believe on Christ. Straightaway her life and those in her household were in danger; after her baptism she was forced to flee the country.

Her account also shows some of the strange parts of Islamic culture and erroneous beliefs, e.g., Mullahs who use holy water to 'cleanse' property, and how Muslims claim the Trinity is God, Mary, and Jesus, with Mary physically being God's wife.

This is not a theological discourse in any sense, but it does shows how God moves in hostile territory, and what sacrifices some are willing to make to follow Christ.

I) A Frightening Presence (pp. 9-19)

The village mullah (Mosque 'priest') would sprinkle holy water on gardens for cleansing.

A Muslim who killed a Christian received no punishment.

Islam loads down adherents with rituals, prayer five teams daily, fasting, and complicated ceremonial washings.

The Qur'an was always read in Arabic since, "it would be wrong to translate the very words that God's angel had given the prophet Muhammad."

II) The Strange Book (pp. 20-27)

Every Muslim child begins reading Qur'an aged 4 years, four months, and four days.

Muslims call Christian missionary converts "rice Christians", alluding to their leaving Islam in exchange for goods.

III) The Dreams (pp. 28-33)

"If the Bible and Quran represent the same God, why is there so much confusion and contradiction?" [p30]

IV) The Encounter (pp. 34-47)

"God couldn't be in both books, I knew, because their messages were so different." [p42]

No Muslim ever thought of Allah as his father.

V) The Crossroads (pp. 48-55)

Bilquis became born again on 12/24/1966 at 0300.

VI) Learning to Find His Presence (pp. 56-65)

VII) The Baptism of Fire and Water (pp. 66-76)

To a Muslim, baptism is one unmistakable sign one has renounced Islam.

Within an hour, the whole town knew of Bilquis' baptism.

VIII) Was There Protection? (pp. 77-89)

A childhood friend counselled her to leave since he was afraid she would be murdered.

All Bilquis' Christian servants fled her home in the middle of the night.

IX) The Boycott (pp. 90-100)

X) Learning to Live in the Glory (pp. 101-119)

At Muslim funerals no one cooks or eats till the body is buried.

“Your so-called Trinity consists of God, Mary, and Jesus! You Christians say that God took a wife who was Mary and from their union Jesus was born. Allah can’t have a wife.” [p113]

XI) Winds of Change (pp. 120-127)

XII) A Time for Sowing (pp. 128-138)

XIII) Storm Warnings (pp. 139-156)

In December 1970, Pakistan had its first democratic vote. The People’s Party slogan was: “Islam our Father, Democracy our Policy, Socialism our Economy.”

XIV) Flight (pp. 157-167)

Pakistanis are only allowed to take \$500 out of the country.

Epilogue (pp. 168-190)

Bilquis moved to the U.S. in 1973 and spoke across the country.

She was wife of General Sheikh, interior minister under President Ayub.