

## HOW CHRIST WON MY HEART



My desire to know about the Christian religion began when I was a lad in my teens. I got hold of some books, such as :

- “ Mizan-ul-haq ” (Balance of Truth), by Pfander ;
- “ Yanabi-ul-Islám ” (Sources of Islám), by Rev. Tisdall ;
- “ Da’awat-ul-Muslimin ” (Call to Muslims to read the Bible) ;
- “ Bakoorat-ush-Shahiya ” (Sweet Firstfruits) ;
- “ Ninar-ul-Haq ” (Beacon of Truth) ;

and others. These I studied, and my interest in Christianity increased. Once my father found some of these books in my box. He immediately burnt them and was very angry with me, and threatened to disown me if he again found me with such books. Furthermore, I used to meditate on certain Koranic verses regarding Christ, such as :

1. The good news of Angels regarding the miraculous birth of Christ.
2. Miracles of Christ, especially healing of lepers, raising the dead and restoration of sight to those born blind, etc., whereas regarding Mohammed it is written that he performed no miracles.
3. The absolute chastity of the mother of Jesus upon which emphatic stress is laid, and also that she came of a religious family.
4. That Christ was the word of God and a spirit from God.
5. That Jesus Christ spoke in the cradle.
6. That Christ is honourable in this world and in the world to come, and one of those who approach near to the Presence of God, and that He shall be one of the righteous.

7. That God will give Him the Book and wisdom.
8. That Christ says of himself, " I have brought a sign from God."
9. That Christ also said, " Oh people, I am able to tell you what you eat, and what you have in your houses, and this is a sign of the truth which I speak " (That I come from God).
10. That he said, " I have power to make lawful certain things which are prohibited to you."
11. That Christ was the sign of the Resurrection.

Now regarding Mohammed himself, nothing like this is found in the Koran.

As I grew older I was very fond of having discussions with Christians against Christianity, and for this reason I used to study controversial books, and it pleased me very much when I could bring ridicule and contempt on the Christian religion, but after some time as I continued to meditate deeply on the above-mentioned Koranic verses concerning Jesus Christ, and also on the New Testament, especially the Gospel of St. John, I became uneasy. One day, when reading the fourteenth Chapter of St. John, the 6th verse, " I am the way," arrested me very forcibly, and suddenly the thought came into my mind whether I ought not indeed to accept and believe in the Christ who laid claim to those words. This thought would not leave my mind, and made me feel very restless and uncomfortable.

Another thought also sprang up in my mind, and that was, were these words really uttered by Jesus Christ, and was St. John the real author of this Gospel ?

Then I began to pray *very* earnestly that this might be revealed to me. This continued for a long time. At last one night I awoke between two and three o'clock, and having performed my religious ablutions sat on my *Musalla* (prayer mat) and recited some prayers, and afterward broke out, in the anguish of my heart, " Oh Almighty God, reveal unto me that which I wish to know."

Then I fell asleep just where I was on my prayer mat, and, in my sleep, a light shone, and I saw a man who was wearing a long white " kurta," and he embraced

me, and said, "I am St. John, and the writer of the book you are reading; whatever is written in it is true, and the words have been spoken by Christ himself, and He has sent me to you that, having revealed myself to you, you may have satisfaction and belief." I answered him, "ámanná wa saddaqná,"—i.e., "I believe and I accept." I awoke feeling very happy, and from that day I resolved to seek and find Him, whom I now believe with all my heart to be indeed "the Truth and the Life."

Since I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, my soul has received peace and comfort because in Him is Peace and Pardon. All my restlessness is removed, and I am happy in Him. In the reading of His Holy Word I find a wonderful calm and joy, day by day my soul is refreshed and new strength granted me. My earnest desire and prayer for my Mohammedan brothers is, that God Almighty may open the eyes of their hearts, and lead them to believe, confess, and accept as the *one* true Prophet, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour.

*Lahore.*

AN INDIAN CONVERT.