

# Ahmadiyya Muslims believe Jesus did not die on cross

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

By Ayesha Mangla

What a coincidence that the alleged discovery of Jesus Christ's remains surfaced when Christians all over the world were preparing to celebrate Easter.

Different religions offer different views of the life and death of Jesus. Some experts believe that Jesus had a death wish. He asked Peter to betray him. How could he have wished for his death when he prayed in anguish, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A different perspective on this issue is presented by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, India, who claimed to be the promised Messiah, awaited by various religions in the latter days. While Hazrat Ahmad draws upon many sources ranging from the Quran to the ancient Buddhist records to medical and historical books, one need not even look beyond the Bible to see the merit of his claims.

In his book, "Jesus in India," Hazrat Ahmad provides compelling evidence that Jesus neither died upon the cross, nor ascended bodily to heaven; instead, he was miraculously saved. Thereafter, he migrated in search of the lost sheep of Israel as he had promised. By following the same route of migration as the 10 lost tribes of Israel, Jesus must have traveled through Afghanistan on his way to Kashmir, India. There is strong historical evidence that the people of Kashmir and Afghanistan are the progeny of those migrant Jewish tribes.

According to Hazrat Ahmad, Jesus later died a natural death at the age of 120 and is buried in Srinagar, Kashmir. The inscription of Yuz Asif (Hebrew) on the tomb refers to Jesus Christ. Thus, Jesus accomplished his mission by delivering the message of God to all 12 tribes of Israel.

Founded by Hazrat Ahmad, the Ahmadiyya Muslim community's understanding of the crucifixion is that it was an unsuccessful attempt on Jesus' life. After a few hours of intense suffering, Jesus was taken down from the cross in a deep coma.

It is evident from the Bible that his legs were not broken as were those of the other two criminals crucified with him. He could not have been dead because blood and water gushed out from his body when the soldier pierced his side. Scientific fact dictates that blood and water cannot gush out of a dead body because there is no heartbeat.

Also, several circumstances were created by God to save Jesus because He loved him and had not "forsaken him" and Jesus had not yet completed his mission.

When Pilate presided at his court, his wife sent word to him not to have anything to do with the death of Jesus because she had a dream that night which troubled her. Therefore, Pilate scheduled the crucifixion for late Friday afternoon, so that the body would not hang for too long before Sabbath (when it was unlawful to let anyone remain on the cross).

Then there was a severe dust storm that darkened the earth for three hours and seemed to have hastened the onset of Sabbath. Fearing the punishment for violating the sanctity of Sabbath, the Jews hastily took Jesus off the cross. When Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body he was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead in such a short period. Jesus' disciples kept him in a sepulcher-like tomb and applied myrrh and aloe to his wounds. Then a violent earthquake removed the huge stone from the tomb's entrance that helped Jesus and his disciples to leave the tomb after three days, as Jonah escaped the fish.

Jesus had prophesied that "no sign would be shown unto the people other than the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Also, Jesus told his people that they were not the only sheep, but that he was sent by God to other sheep as well. But since Jesus never left Judea before the crucifixion, it had to be only after his crucifixion that he traveled to the new abode of the 10 tribes of Israel to complete his mission. Jesus had to leave Judea in secrecy because no state would provide legal protection to an escapee. Thus, he left the Roman territory for Galilee, a land of freedom to fulfill the prophecy of reaching those 10 tribes.

Jesus himself ruled out the question of being a ghost. He not only asserted to be the Jesus who was crucified, but also asked his disciples to touch his wounds, which were still fresh. Later he ate fish and bread because he was alive and hungry. Jesus hid from the public and the government, even after his wounds were healed, because he was mortal and he and his followers did not want the Romans to attempt to crucify him again.

During all this, Jesus' followers were compelled to concoct the story that Jesus ascended bodily to heaven. They were in a very difficult situation. If they admitted to Jesus' death, they would have to produce his body. They would also be admitting that Jesus was a false prophet because he would have died an accursed death.

But, if they said he did not die on the cross, they would have been forced to produce him to be crucified again. Thus, Hazrat Ahmad asserts the story of the resurrection eventually became a dogma that is followed by millions today.

This subject has been discussed in detail in "Jesus in India and Christianity: A Journey from Facts to Fiction." These can be accessed online at [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) in the library.

Ayesha Mangla resides in Portage.

<http://www.mlive.com/kalamazoo/stories/index.ssf?/base/columns-3/117682335424730.xml&coll=7>