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## Santa Claus

**He Sees You When You're Sleeping.  
He knows When You're Awake.  
He Knows if You've  
Been Bad or Good....**

Who is he? Is this from Christian Origin?

Who Is...

Khalid Yasin



**K**halid Yasin is an American convert from Christianity to Islam and he was born in 1946 in Harlem, New York. He was raised in Brooklyn as a Christian and he converted in the year 1965.

Yasin was born in Harlem, New York and raised in Brooklyn as a Christian along with nine siblings. Although not an orphan, he grew up in foster homes from the age of three, along with some of his siblings, until he was fifteen. He describes each foster home as having a different Christian denomination, so he covered a wide spectrum of Christianity. He was put up for adoption due to his family's financial state.

Yasin has described his youth in "the ghetto," where it was "Me and my two brothers Sam and Julius, against the world. We had nothing but converting and accepting Islam now we have everything." When first reading about Islam, he often used Encyclopedia Britannica as a reliable source on Islam and its concepts. Yasin felt the grief of African-American people, and he was especially influenced by the turbulent 1960's and figures like Malcolm X.

Shaykh Khalid Yasin is executive Director of the Islamic Teaching Institute (ITI): a premier Organization dedicated to the work of Da'wah (conveying the message), he has studied the Arabic language in Madinah. He has had many mentors and teachers who tutored him in Fiqh us-sunnah, fiqh us-seerah, islamic history and memorization and recitation of the Qur'an. In the past ten years the Islamic Teaching Institute has delivered more than 5000 persons to Islam and additional 1476 since the September 11 attacks. Shaykh Khalid Yasin delivered a lecture in Saudi Arabia in 1994 titled "The Purpose of Life" which resulted 43 persons accepting Islam on that very night. Khalid Yasin Constantly tours the world delivering lectures aimed at removing distortions about Islam and Muslims, conducting Da'wah Training courses, and providing new Muslims with a specially designed Islamic Training program. Khalid Yasin is committed to raising the consciousness of the Muslims to fulfill the responsibility of Da'wah and establishment of Islamic revival.

Visit [www.KhalidYasin.com](http://www.KhalidYasin.com)

One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am.

As I grew older, I became wise enough to realize that as much as I try to promote peace, love and tolerance, there will always be haters. So I ask Allah to pardon those with the wrong misconceptions about my statements.

- Khalid Yasin

(Allah) - He so loved me! He knew me and I broke every rule He had, yet He so loved me. When I got so far out that I was sick of myself, He loved me. People who said they loved me, left me. People who were supposed to love me didn't come through for me and yet every time my soul was falling, Allah caught me because he soo loved me. When I was so full of sin He loved me, I'm still living and breathing. "Alhamdulillah" When I went away from Him (Allah) an strayed He still loved me. I didn't even think I was valuable enough to be caught but HE still loves me!

Thank you GOD for loving me.  
May Allah have mercy upon mankind  
- Khalid Yasin

<https://www.facebook.com/KhalidYasinOfficial>

# Santa Claus

Who is he? Is this from Christianity?



Some Christians object to him because he is secular rather than Christian; some non-Christians object to him because of his Christian roots.

Jews do not even accept Jesus, peace be upon him, therefore why should they be expected to accept Santa?

Muslims also object to the idea of Santa Claus, but for a different reason. Islam teaches in fact, Jesus, peace be upon him, was the long awaited Christ (Messiah) and he was confirming the correct message of Almighty God: "The Lord your God, is One Lord and you must love Him and Him alone with all your mind and all your heart and all your strength."

In any case, he is a powerful cultural symbol which is impossible to ignore, but this doesn't mean that he should simply be accepted without question. There are good reasons to dispense with the tradition.

## Parents Must Lie About Santa Claus:

Perhaps the most serious objection to perpetuating belief in Santa Claus among children is also the simplest: in order to do so, parents have to lie to their children. You can't encourage the belief without dishonesty, and it's not a "little white lie" that is for their own good or that might protect them from harm. Parents should not persistently lie to children without overwhelmingly good reasons, so this puts supporters of the Santa Claus myth on the defensive.

## Parents' Lies About Santa Continue to Grow:

In order to get kids to believe in Santa Claus,

it's not enough to commit a couple of simple lies and move on. As with any lie, it's necessary to construct more and more elaborate lies and defenses as time passes. Skeptical questions about Santa must be met with detailed lies about Santa's powers. "Evidence" of Santa Claus must be created once mere stories of Santa prove insufficient. It's unethical for parents to perpetuate elaborate deceptions on children unless it's for a greater good.

## Santa Claus Lies Discourage Healthy Skepticism:

Most children eventually become skeptical about Santa Claus and ask questions about him, for example how he could possibly travel around the whole world in such a short period of time. Instead of encouraging this skepticism and helping children come to a reasonable conclusion about whether Santa Claus is even possible, much less real, most parents discourage skepticism by telling tales about Santa's supernatural powers.

## The Reward & Punishment System of Santa Claus is Unjust:

There are a number of aspects to the whole Santa Claus "system" which children shouldn't learn to internalize. It implies that the whole person can be judged as naughty or nice based upon a few acts. It requires belief that someone is constantly watching you, no matter what you are doing. It is based upon the premise that one should do good for the sake of reward and avoid doing wrong out of fear of punishment. It allows parents to try to control children via a

(Continued Page 11)

## THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN LIFE IS: 'WHY ARE WE HERE?'

Well, why are we here? To amass fame and fortune? To make music and babies? To be the richest man or woman in the graveyard for, as we are jokingly told, "He who dies with the most toys wins?"

No, there must be more to life than that, so let's think about this. To begin with, look around you. Unless you live in a cave, you are surrounded by things we humans have made with our own hands. Now, why did we make those things? The answer, of course, is that we make things to perform some specific function for us. In short, we make things to serve us. So by extension, why did God make us, if not to serve Him?

## How do we serve our Creator?

If we acknowledge our Creator, and that He created humankind to serve Him, the next question is, "How? How do we serve Him?" No doubt, this question is best answered by the One who made us. If He created us to serve Him, then He expects us to function in a particular manner, if we are to achieve our purpose.

## But how can we know which manner to serve Him? How can we know what God expects from us?

Well, consider this: God gave us light, by which we can find our way. Even at night, we have the moon for light and the stars for navigation. God gave other animals guidance systems best suited for their conditions and needs. Migrating birds can navigate, even on overcast days, by how light is polarized as it passes through the clouds. Whales migrate by "reading" the Earth's magnetic fields. Salmon return from the open ocean to spawn at the exact spot of their birth by smell, if that can be imagined. Fish sense distant movements through pressure receptors that line their bodies. Bats and blind river dolphins "see" by sonar. Certain marine organisms (the electric eel being a high-voltage example) generate and "read" magnetic fields, allowing them to "see" in muddy waters, or in the blackness of ocean depths. Insects communicate by pheromones. Plants sense sunlight and grow towards it (phototropism); their roots sense gravity and grow into the earth (geotropism).

In short, God has gifted every element of His creation with guidance.

*Can we seriously believe God would not give us guidance on the one most important aspect of our existence, namely our raison d'être our reason for being? That He would not give us the tools by which to achieve salvation?*

So what does the Creator, God, tell us about our purpose in life? God states in the Quran that He created the human to be His trustee on earth. Mankind's basic trust, our responsibility, is to believe in and worship God:

*And I did not create the jinn and humankind except to worship Me... [Quran 51:56-58]*

Very simple! The purpose for man's creation is to worship the Creator.

God should be worshipped in times of hardship and times of prosperity and only through his remembrance can the human being find inner peace:

*We truly know how your heart is distressed by what they say. So celebrate the praises of your Lord and be of those who prostrate themselves and worship your Lord until the sure hour (of death). [Quran 15:99]*

*Those who have faith and whose hearts find peace in the remembrance of God- truly it is in the remembrance of God that hearts find peace [Quran 13:28]*

## Creation is created to be tested:

God states that He made this life in order to test man so that every person may be recompensed after death for what he has earned:

*[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving. [Quran, 67:2]*

## What God is and what God is not - Know Him well:

In order to worship Him, we have to know Him well otherwise we may form a distorted concept of Him and then go astray. In the Quran, God tells humankind what He is and what He is not. For example, in response to a question about God that was posed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), God says:

*Say (O Muhammad): He is God [Who is] One, God, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent. [Quran, 112]*

# Keeping Christ in Christmas

You can't keep Christ in something he was never in.

## The Christmas Experience

The perfect Christmas tree is bought. Adorned with ornaments and glittering with tinsel, it stands by the window. The stores are crammed with shoppers hunting for presents and the little ones anxiously waiting for Santa.

Busy with Christmas fever, wonder did you ever, did the Bible or Jesus made any injunction on Christmas ever?

Ponder upon the following analysis on Christmas, and the Truth will become clearer and clearer.

## Does Christmas have Biblical Evidence?

The word 'Christmas' does not exist in the Bible. The Bible has closed lips on the entire feast of Christmas, with one exception, the decoration of a tree. The Bible itself criticizes the decoration of the (Christmas) trees:

*"The customs of the people are worthless, they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel, they adore it with silver and gold, they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter" (Jeremiah 10-3,4).*

European Pre-Christian pagans superstitiously believed that the green trees had special protective powers. In fact the use of the Christmas tree

began only in the 17th century in Strasbourg, France and from there it spread to Germany, Britain and then to the U.S. *"Tree worship was a common feature of religion among the Teutonic and Scandinavian peoples of northern Europe before their conversion to Christianity...German settlers brought the Christmas tree custom to the American colonies in the 17th century. By the 19th century its use was quite widespread."* (Compton's Encyclopedia, 1998 Edition)

## Was Jesus born on Dec. 25?

Neither the date 25th Dec. nor any other date on Jesus' birth is mentioned in the Bible. In the year 530 C.E. a monk, Dionysus Exigus, fixed the date of Jesus' birth on Dec. 25th. *"He wrongly dated*

*the birth of Christ according to the Roman system (i.e., 754 years after the founding of Rome) as Dec. 25, 753."* (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1998 ed.) This date was chosen in keeping with the holidays already indoctrinated into pagans beliefs.

Roman pagans celebrated Dec. 25th as the birth of their 'god' of light, Mithra.

*"In the 2nd century A.D., it (Mithraism) was more general in the Roman Empire than Christianity, to which it bore many similarities"* (The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia, 1995 ed.)

Other pagan 'gods' born on Dec. 25th are: Hercules the son of Zeus (Greeks); Bacchus, 'god' of wine (Romans); Adonis, 'god' of Greeks, and 'god' Freyr of Greek-Roman pagans.

## What about Santa Claus?

If aliens descended on earth during the Christmas season, they would undoubtedly believe Christmas as being Santa's birthday. The words 'Santa Claus,' appear nowhere in the Bible.

However, Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) was a real person, a bishop, who was born 300 years after Jesus. According to legend, he was extremely kind and set out at night to bring presents to the needy. After his death on 6th

of Dec., school boys in Europe began celebrating a feast day each year.

Queen Victoria later changed the celebration date from Dec. 6th to Dec. 24th eve.

## Did Jesus or his Companions Celebrate Christmas?

If Jesus meant his followers to celebrate Christmas, he would have practiced it himself and enjoined it on his followers. There is no mention in the entire Bible that any of his followers ever celebrated Jesus' birthday like Christians do today.

*"The church did not observe a festival for the celebration of the event of Christmas until the 4th century"* (Grolier's Encyclopedia)

Thus we see that neither the Bible nor Jesus and his companions say anything about the celebration

of Christmas which currently involves fanfare, commercialization, and extravagant spending, devoid of any spiritual relevance.

*Excerpt from "What Did Jesus Say About Christmas" www.IslamHouse.com/52993*

In ancient pagan times, the last day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere was celebrated as the night that the Great Mother Goddess gives birth to the baby Sun God. It is also called Yule, the day a huge log is added to a bonfire, around which everyone would dance and sing to awaken the sun from its long winter sleep.

In Roman times, it became the celebrations honouring Saturnus (the harvest god) and Mithras (the ancient god of light), a form of sun worship that had come to Rome from Syria a century before with the cult of Sol Invictus. It announced that winter is not forever, that life continues, and an invitation to stay in good spirit.

The last day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere occurs between the 20th and 22 December. The Roman celebrated Saturnalia between 17 and 24 December.

## The early Christians

To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan festival, early Christians decked their homes with Saturnalia holly. As Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, the celebrations took on a Christian observance. But the early church actually did not celebrate the birth of Christ in December until Telesphorus, who

was the second Bishop of Rome from 125 to 136AD, declared that Church services should be held during this time to celebrate "The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour." However, since no-one was quite sure in which month Christ was born, Nativity was often held in September, which was during the Jewish

The Complete Book of American Holidays tells us that Luke's account of Christ's birth in the Bible "suggests that Jesus may have been born in summer or early fall. Since December is cold and rainy in Judea, it is likely the shepherds would have sought shelter for their flocks at night" (p. 309) rather than keeping them outdoors.

In the 17th century Christmas was actually outlawed in England and some parts of the American colonies because of its unbiblical and pagan origins. They knew something most people today have forgotten.

Feast of Trumpets (modern-day Rosh Hashanah). In fact, for more than 300 years, people observed the birth of Jesus on various dates.

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th December. Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius

I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Christmas official, but not generally observed

In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced Christmas as an immovable feast on 25 December. He also introduced Sunday as a holy day in a new

7-day week, and introduced movable feasts (Easter). In 354AD, Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December.

However, even though Constantine officiated 25 December as the birthday of Christ, Christians, recognising the date as a pagan festival, did not share in the emperor's good meaning. Christmas failed to gain universal recognition among Christians until quite recently. In England, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas festivities between 1649 and 1660

through the so-called Blue Laws, believing that Christmas should be a solemn day.

When many Protestants escaped persecution by fleeing to the colonies all over the world, interest in joyous Christmas celebrations was rekindled there. Still, Christmas was not even a legal holiday until the 1800s. And, keep in mind, there

was no Father Christmas (Santa Claus) figure at that time.

## Christmas becomes popular

The popularity of Christmas was spurred on in

(Continued Page 8)

# Keeping Christ in Christmas (continued)

1820 by Washington Irving's book *The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall*. In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, introducing the tradition of the Christmas tree and carols that were held in Europe to the British Empire. A week before Christmas in 1834, Charles Dickens published *A Christmas Carol* (in which he wrote that Scrooge required Cratchit to work, and that the US Congress met on Christmas Day). It was so popular that neither the churches nor the governments could not ignore the importance of Christmas celebrations. In 1836, Alabama became the first state in the US to declare Christmas a legal holiday. In 1837, T.H. Hervey's *The Book of Christmas* also became a best seller. In 1860, American illustrator Thomas Nast borrowed from the European stories about Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, to create Father Christmas (Santa Claus). In 1907, Oklahoma became the last US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Year by year, countries all over the world started to recognise Christmas as the day for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

## Have a merry Christmas

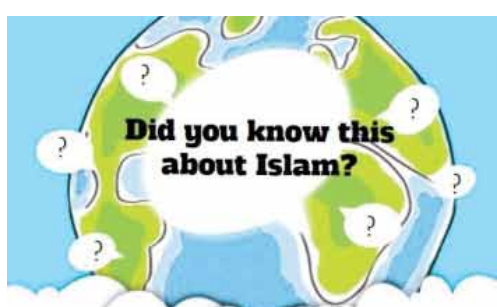
Today, many of the pagan uses are reflected in Christmas. Jesus was born in March, yet his birth is celebrated on 25 December, the time of solstice. The Christmas celebrations end the 12th day of Christmas (6 January), the same amount of days that the return of the sun was celebrated by ancient and Roman pagans. It thus is no surprise that Christian puritans - or even conservative Christians - often are upset that Christmas "is not as religious as it was meant to be," forgetting that Christmas was not celebrated at all until fairly recently.

(Excerpt from [www.islamhouse.com/52989](http://www.islamhouse.com/52989))

Although we shall never be sure about the exact circumstances of Jesus' birth, we do know that about two thousand years ago, there was born in what is now called Palestine an extraordinary man who was to change profoundly the course of human history.

In fact, celebrating any birthday should be a celebration of the mother who did all the work, made all the sacrifices and gave birth to the child during hard labor and great pain. No human is due more honor and respect as regards giving birth, than the mother.

**May Allah reward and exalt the mothers, ameen.**



- the crescent & star**  
is NOT a symbol of Islam. During the 19th century, it represented the Ottoman Empire. The same symbol was used in other national flags introduced during the 20th century, including the flags of Pakistan (1949), Malaysia (1948), Mauritania (1959) and others.
- "Allah"** means:  
"the worshipped One" - One supreme being, One Creator.
- "Muslim"** means:  
anyone or anything that submits itself to the will of Allah
- "Islam"** means:  
peace through the submission to "Allah"

**Jihad** does NOT mean "Holy War" - It means to strive and struggle in trying to submit their will to the will of Allah

**Muhammed** was NOT the founder of Islam. Islam is the religion revealed to all Prophets of Allah - like Jesus, Moses and Abraham (peace be upon them all)

Muslims do NOT worship the "black box" (Kabah). It serves as a focal and unifying point among the Muslim people



By: Khalid Aleher  
N.B: Any good from this Islamographic is from ALLAH, the mistakes are my own  
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"Whoever believes in God and the Last Day should speak a good word or remain silent. And whoever believes in God and the Last Day should show hospitality to his neighbor. And whoever believes in God and the Last Day should show hospitality to his guest." - Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Islam emphasizes the rights of our neighbors. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Gabriel kept on recommending me to treat neighbors kindly and politely so much that I thought that Allah would order me to make them my heirs." There are many forms that this hospitality can take. It can take the form of help in times of need. The Prophet Muhammad said: "He is not a believer who lets himself be satiated while his neighbor goes hungry." It can mean making allowances for the

neighbor's needs, even by waiving some of one's own rights. The Prophet said: "None of you should prevent his neighbor from placing his rafter in his wall." It can take the form of gift giving. The Prophet said: "O Muslim women! None of you should consider insignificant a gift that you give to your neighbor, even if it is but the trotters of a sheep." Islam teaches us to be generous and hospitable to those who come to us as guests. Indeed, those who come to our homes have a right over us.

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# Pray the Way Jesus Prayed

*Some Christians may find the Muslim method of prayer odd... but if they were to pray as described in the Bible then they would find themselves praying like the Muslims...*

Muslim Prayer in the Bible:

## **ABLUTION:**

“Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped...” (2 Samuel 12:20)

“So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.” (Exodus 30:21)

“And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet...” (Exodus 40:31)

## **RAISING OF THE HANDS:**

“Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.” (Psalms 63:4)

## **ALLAHU AKBAR (God is Great):**

“Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise...” (Psalms 48:1)

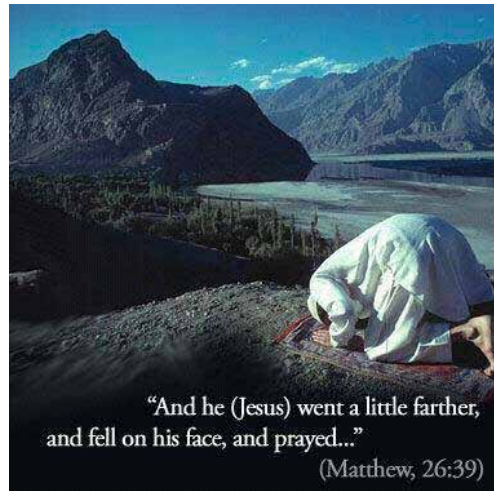
## **PROSTRATION:**

“And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him...” (Genesis 17:3)

“...and they (Moses and Aaron) fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.” (Numbers 20:6)

“And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.” (Joshua 7:6)

“...they bowed themselves with their faces to the



ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD...” (2 Chronicles 7:3)

“...and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” (Nehemiah 8:6)

“And he (Jesus) went a little farther and fell on his face, and prayed...” (Matthew 26:39)

“And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces...” (Matthew 17:6)

“...and he (Elijah) cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees...” (1 Kings 18:42)

“...and (all the angels) fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God...” (Revelations 7:11)

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” (Psalms 95:6)

“...all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.” (Psalms 22:29)

“...And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.” (Judges 13:20)

“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God.” (1 Kings 18:39)

“I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD!” (Ezekiel 9:8)

“David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times...” (1 Samuel 20:41)

“And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship...” (Joshua 5:14)

“And it came to pass, that, when Abraham’s servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth...” (Genesis 24:52)

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# Santa Claus - Continued

powerful stranger.

## **The Santa Claus Myth Promotes Materialism:**

The entire Santa Claus myth is based on the idea of children getting gifts. There’s nothing wrong with getting gifts, but Santa Claus makes it the focus on the entire holiday. Children are encouraged to conform their behavior to parental expectation in order to receive ever more presents rather than simply lumps of coal. In order to make Christmas lists, kids pay close attention to what advertisers tell them they should want, effectively encouraging unbridled consumerism.

## **Santa Claus is Too Similar to Jesus and God:**

One of the primary reasons the concept of Santa Claus is rejected totally by all true Muslims, is this idea of Santa having divine qualities and powers, reserved in Islam only for God.

The parallels between Santa Claus and Jesus or God are numerous. Santa Claus is a nearly all-powerful, supernatural person who dispenses rewards and punishment to people all over the world based upon whether they adhere to a pre-defined code of conduct.

His existence is implausible or impossible, but faith is expected if one is to receive the rewards. Muslims should regard this as blasphemous; Non-Muslims shouldn’t want their kids prepared in this way to adopt Christianity or theism.

## **The Santa Claus “Tradition” is Relatively Recent:**

Some might think that because Santa Claus is such an old tradition, this alone is sufficient reason to continue it. They were taught to believe in Santa as children, so why not pass this along to their own? The role of Santa Claus in Christmas celebration is actually quite recent — the mid to late 19th century. The importance of Santa Claus is a creation of cultural elites and perpetuated by business interests and simple cultural momentum. It has little to no inherent value.

## **Santa Claus is More About Parents than Children:**

Parental investment in Santa Claus is far larger than anything kids do, suggesting that parents’ defense of the Santa Claus myth is more about

what they want than about what kids want. Their own memories about enjoying Santa may be heavily influenced by cultural assumptions about what they should have experienced. Is it not possible that kids would find at least as much pleasure in knowing that parents are responsible for Christmas, not a supernatural stranger?

## **The Future of Santa Claus:**

Santa Claus symbolizes Christmas and perhaps the entire winter holiday season like nothing else. An argument can be made for the importance of the Christmas tree as a symbol for Christmas (notice that there are no Christian images which come close), but Santa Claus personifies Christmas in a way that trees cannot.

Santa Claus is, furthermore, a very secular character by now which allows him to cross cultural and religious lines, placing him in an important position for the entire season rather than for Christmas alone. Because of this, it’s plausible that giving up on Santa Claus will mean abandoning much of the Christmas holidays altogether — and perhaps that’s not such a bad thing.

There’s a lot to be said for Christians dismissing the consumerist, commercialized Christmas of America and focusing instead on the Nativity of Jesus. Ignoring Santa Claus would symbolize this choice.

There’s a lot to be said for adherents of other religions refusing to allow Santa Claus to become part of their own traditions, representing a culture intruding into their own.

Finally, there’s also something to be said for nonbelievers of various sorts — humanists, atheists, skeptics, and freethinkers — refusing to be co-opted into a religious observance.

Whether Santa Claus in particular or Christmas in general is treated as defined by Christian or pagan religious traditions neither are religions which nonbelievers are part of. Christmas and Santa Claus have strong secular elements, but those are primarily commercial — and who is going to invest themselves in a holiday all about commerce and who can spend the most money on credit?

The future of Santa Claus will depend on whether people will care enough to do anything — if not, things will continue on the same course they have been on. If people care not to be taken over by Christmas, resistance may reduce Santa’s status as a cultural icon.

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# The Prophet Muhammad's Last Sermon

This sermon was delivered on the Ninth Day of Dhul Hijjah 10 A.H. in the 'Uranah valley of Mount Arafat' (in Mecca).

After praising, and thanking Allah he said:

*“O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and TAKE THESE WORDS TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE PRESENT HERE TODAY.*

*O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that HE will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has Judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd'al Muttalib (Prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived...*

*Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.*

*O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your*

*women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.*

*O People, listen to me in earnest, worship ALLAH, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat (charity). Perform Hajj if you can afford to.*

*All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white; except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.*

*Remember, one day you will appear before ALLAH and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.*

*O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the QURAN and my example, the SUNNAH and if you follow these you will never go astray.*

*All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed your message to your people”.*

For Questions about Islam, Comments, Suggestions or other inquiries about this publication please contact: [Editor@DawahMonthly.com](mailto:Editor@DawahMonthly.com)

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