

Transcriptionist: Hugh Lewis

God. Worshipping the same God but in different way in different language from different angle

D: The first time I have ever heard that. What Imam just told me: we are praying to the same God, and this is just really blowing my mind.

Most people are surprised to learn that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are branches of the same religious tree. In fact both Abraham, the founder of Judaism and Jesus, the founder of Christianity are considered prophets in the Islamic faith.

God will bless you [?] thank you Dave

D: Thanks

See you tomorrow

While Imam is Dave's new spiritual guide he will probably learn the most about day to day life as a Muslim by spending time with the Hawks and their friends.

[?] [?]

D: How is it going?

[?]

D: Good to see you

[?]

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D: Oh I have gotten a ton of strange looks, especially leaving West Virginia, [?] that airport many times and it's the first time I was actually stopped at the security and I take my shoes off kind of frisk and gave me the wand.

Yeah, we know about the wand.

D: Did you guys who live in the complex move here, because it was so close to the church? Mask Mask?

That was a motivating factor.

Probably the best reason.

Are you learning how to pray or?

D: Ah not yet. Not yet

[Islamic music playing] people making prayerful sounds in Islamic.

D: Still feeling kind of off [?] little bit like Nemo, must of felt when he got lost in the big sea. [?] My name is David.

[?] [?]

D: Although I am in Dareborn Michigan, I might as well be in Egypt or something. This is cool. I am eating totally different food every day I am not watching TV, I am pretty much just missing my family.

[?] [?] Speaking in Islamic

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D: Pretty much all the people I am with, practices a totally different faith. Tomorrow I am going to be going to my first Juma, which is the Muslim holy day Friday and I am going to be going to the Mask. Lakard blag-du-cum [trying to speak Islamic] I know that there is going to be a prayer service going on and I am going to be asked to pray to something that I know very little about and I am just going to get a real conflict with that. I am sure Jesus Christ isn't going to be a focal point of this prayer.

Hello Dave, how are you?

D: Well before we get in there and I am assuming that you are going to go in and lead this thing. I am just not comfortable praying right now, first thing in Arabic when I don't really know what the meaning is.

The way we are going to pray is different, the Christian and the Jew, but the core

D: Right

The Jews Prophet is there

D: Hm hm

Judaism Christianity Islam, all descendants of Abraham. So

D: Yeah I am still not convinced that the

[?] Convince

D: That we are talking about the same guy –I mean I feel like I am going to be compromising my beliefs that the first time I have heard

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Well prove to me that the world have two Gods, you can't!

D: I am just telling you honestly how I feel

You are here

D: I am thirty three years old I have been a Christian my whole life

You are here to learn not to believe let your heart humility to talk to God. It doesn't matter in which language in which physical action, just spiritually talk to God.

[Speaking in Arabic]

D: Not knowing what was being said in Arabic, I really had a huge panic attack. I don't know if part of the prayer is to condemn Christianity or the holy trinity

[Speech in Arabic continues]

D: If I am reciting Arabic I have no idea what I am saying and I am compromising my moral being. For me to pray to another God it makes me feel like I am turning my back on my own God.

Today is the ninth day of Dave Stacey's month spending time living as a Muslim. His host Shamal and his friend Harris have brought him to a special event

D: [?] one of Shamal's friend had his bachelor party and [?] certainly not like any bachelor party I have ever attended [music plays in background]

My man is getting married so this is our version of a bachelor party

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D: Drastically different from the bachelor parties that I have attended [laughter]. I am kind of struck by just how seriously they all do take it. After you watch them pray it seems like they have had some type of experience. It's like they connected on some pretty deep levels.

If Judaism, Christianity and Islam are branches of the same religious tree, what exactly makes them different? Well Jews believe in the existence of one true God and are still waiting for his son the Messiah to save them. The first Christians were Jews, who believe that the prophet Jesus was the Messiah and based their religion on his teachings and his resurrection and although Muslims think that Jesus was a cool prophet they don't believe he was the son of God. They based their religion on the writings of a later prophet, Mohammed. Dave returns to the Karbalaa Center to see if Imam can answer his questions about Islamic prayer.

D: I have witnessed the prayer at home and everywhere else I just want to learn more about that, exactly what's being said,

Yeah

D: I have read somewhere that you even wash your hands wash your face

Do you really want to pray like that?

D: I just know very little about it and I am interested in learning

What do you think you want to learn as a Christian about Islam?

D: Do you believe Jesus is the son of god?

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Spiritual son.

D: Spiritual son?

So was Abraham. So was Moses. So was Mohammed.

D: hmm but what??

You do believe that Jesus died, right, on the cross?

D: Yeah I do believe that –do you believe that?

So God doesn't die! Because the one that died on the cross, if that happened, that is physical death. We believe God doesn't die. So God is the Lord running the show. If God dies, who gonna run the show? If he dies then who gonna run it?

D: Hm

See, you cannot have a dead God.

D: you are trying to get me to say that he died [giggles]

He doesn't die you got it

D: if we are talking about this

You're comfortable with this way of sitting?

D: Yeah yeah

Are you sure?