

for a few hours or days, *He was not crucified*. We read in Moslem tradition:†

“And they spat upon Him and put thorns upon Him; and they erected the wood to crucify Him upon it. And when they came to crucify Him upon the tree, the earth was darkened, and God sent angels, and they descended between them and between Jesus; and God cast the likeness of Jesus upon him who had betrayed Him, and whose name was Judas. And they crucified him in His stead, and they thought that they crucified Jesus. Then God made Jesus to die for three hours, and then raised Him up to heaven; and this is the meaning of the Koran verse: ‘Verily, I will cause Thee to die, and raise Thee unto Me, and purify Thee above those who misbelieve.’”

In addition to this, Moslem commentators teach that when Christ comes again the second time, He will die, emphasizing, as it were, the frailty of his human nature, which even after his return from glory, and his death for a few hours before his ascension, is still subject to death, in this also flatly contradicting all the teaching of the New Testament that “He died for sin once, and death hath no more dominion over Him.”

Not only do Moslems deny the historical fact of the crucifixion, but from the days of Mohammed himself until now, they have shown a strange and strong antipathy, and even a repugnance, to the very sign of the Cross. It is related by Al Waqidi that Mohammed had such repugnance to the very form of the cross that he broke everything brought into his house with that figure upon it. This may have been mere superstition, or, as

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† For these traditions and their sources, cf. Zwemer’s “The Moslem Christ,” pp. 78-112.