

And as for those who misbelieve, I will punish them with grievous punishment in this world and the next, and they shall have none to help them.' But as for those who believe and do what is right, He will pay them their reward, for God loves not the unjust " (Surah 3: 47-50).

"And peace upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised up alive" (Surah 19:34).

"And I was a witness against them so long as I was amongst them, but when Thou didst cause me to die, Thou wert the Watcher over them, for Thou art witness over all" (Surah 5: 117).

These texts certainly seem to teach that Jesus died.

Yet, in spite of them, Moslems everywhere quote the other verse when they deal with Christians, whom they accuse of misbelief:

"And for their misbelief, and for their saying about Mary a mighty calumny, and for their saying, 'Verily, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, the apostle of God' * * * BUT THEY DID NOT KILL HIM AND THEY DID NOT CRUCIFY HIM, BUT A SIMILITUDE WAS MADE FOR THEM. And verily, those who differ about him are in doubt concerning him; they have no knowledge concerning him, but only follow an opinion. They did not kill him, for sure! Nay, God raised him up unto Himself." (Surah 4: 155, 156).

In the traditions which have come down to us from the prophet himself (or which have been invented by his followers and attributed to Mohammed)* this denial of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross is elaborated. As apparently the death of Jesus Christ was both affirmed and denied in the Koran, to unify its teaching the only possible way of escape was to affirm that although He died

* Goldziher, "Mohammedanische Studien." Vol. II.