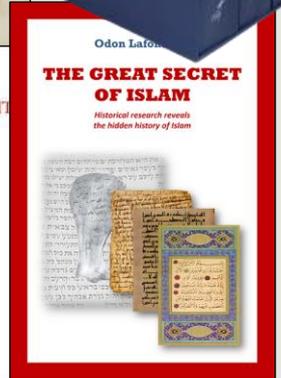
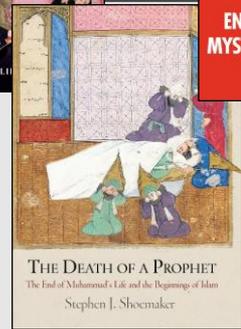
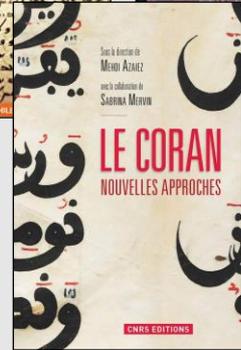
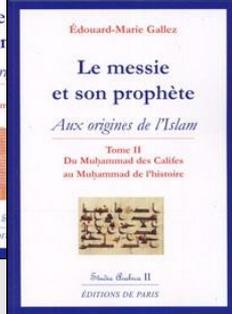
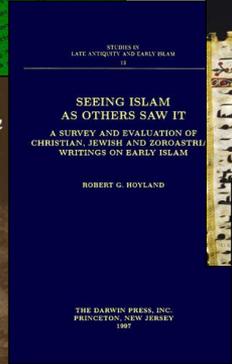
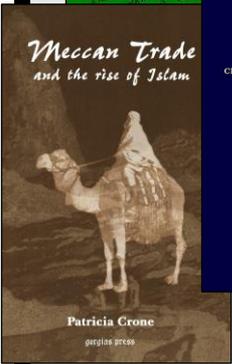
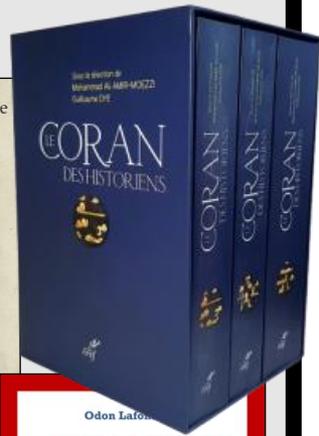
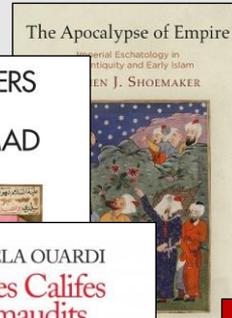
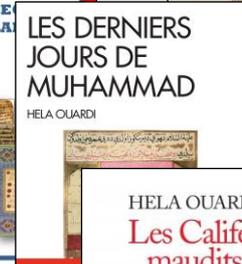
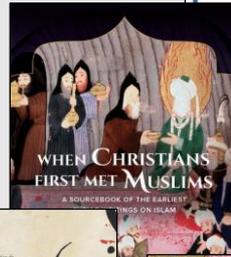
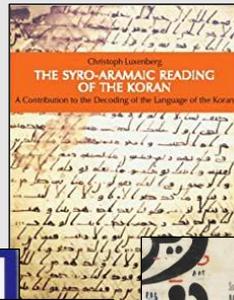
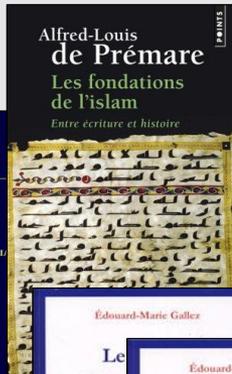
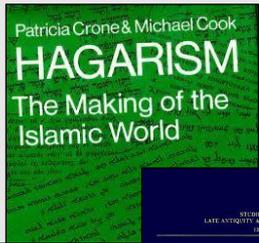


# A Nazarene reading of the Quran

# Challenging the Standard

# Islamic Narrative



July 22, 2021

A conversation with Jay Smith

Odon Lafontaine (Olaf), author of **The Great Secret of Islam**

[www.thegreatsecretofislam.com](http://www.thegreatsecretofislam.com)

# The Standard Islamic Narrative

A “prophet”...



...revealed the Quran to ignorant pagans



Thus, a whole new religion developed



A religion pretending to be the return to the “primordial religion”, correcting the Jewish and Christian deviances



... paving the way for the Arab conquest and the rise of the caliphal empire



**Challenging the Standard Islamic Narrative  
and the islamic reading of the Quran (1/3):  
*stating the obvious***

**The Standard Islamic Narrative (SIN) has imposed its reading of the Quran; we are forced into its interpretation and its concepts without even realizing we abide by them**

A unique “prophet”

God’s word

A timeline (610-632)

A book is revealed

The Hijaz

A pagan environment

Mecca & Medina

This book is the  
“Quran” mentioned in  
the quranic text

An ancient shrine

An ancient  
pilgrimage

# Challenging the Standard Islamic Narrative and the islamic reading of the Quran (2/3): *stating the obvious*

**Yet, obviously, the SIN does not make sense in many ways: logic, history, geography, etc.**

Why is there no mention to the major events of the 7<sup>th</sup>. c.?

Why is there absolutely no trace of any active Arab paganism in the 7<sup>th</sup>. c.?

Why does Mecca not fit the SIN description?

What was the real place of Abraham? Mecca, according to the SIN, or Jerusalem, according to the Islamic prophets Moses, David, John the Baptist, Jesus... ?

Why are Christians called Nazarenes (*nasara*) and not *masihiyun*?

How come the “Christian” (Nazarenes) could be allies of the Jews in the 7<sup>th</sup>. c.?

How could the *nasara* / Nazarenes be both the closest & the enemies of the Believers?

Why is there no trace of Christianity in the Hijaz while Muhammad’s wife cousin (and so his wife and in-law?) is described as a “Christian” (Nazarene, and also a former Jew)?

# Challenging the Standard Islamic Narrative and the islamic reading of the Quran (3/3): *new discoveries*

**New Quranic studies and the finding of ancient sources point to Christian and Jewish influences – particularly the influence of a group being describe as “Jewish”**

Persians and Jews took over Jerusalem in 614, **with the help of Arab** allies and auxiliaries; there was an attempt to rebuild the Temple

Jerusalem was taken by the Arabs around 638-640; they were guided by “Jews” and rebuilt the Temple

Jerusalem played a crucial in the (early?) Islamic eschatology

New Quranic studies:

- The Biblical context, the Aramaic background
- The global exegesis: Mecca & Jerulem ; **the “good community” among the “people of the Book”**, an **alliance between this good community and the believers**

A (Jewish?) prophet appeared with the Saracens

[The Jews] called [the Arabs] to their aid

Ka'b al-Ahbar, a former Jew converted to islam (according to he SIN) Omar's companion built a "synagogue" on the Temple Mount

Jews came back to Jerusalem with the Arabs (around 638), then were expelled by the Arabs around 640 (Moshe Gil, *A History of Palestine*)

## The global exegesis of the Quranic text : “*people of the Book*” & “*coverers*”

*Caveat : no critical exegesis of the Quran for a long time because it was seen as "text without context", but the new historical and quranic studies now allow to cautiously work the Quran as historical source*

Who are the "**people of the Book**"?  
Who are the *kuffar / kaffirun* among them?

***ahl al kitab***: "people of the Book", etymologically "people of the kitab" (of the writing, of the prescription, of the scriptures)

***kuffar / kaffirun***: infidels, disbelievers according to Muslim tradition, but according to the etymology (root KFR), they are "coverers"

## The people of the book in the Quran (32 occurrences of the expression)

- Q2,105** Not those who cover among the **people of the book**, nor the Associates, appreciate that a blessing from your Lord should be brought down upon you, whereas God reserves His Mercy for whomever He wills.
- Q2,109** Many from the **people in the book** would appreciate, out of jealousy on their part, being able to make you collectors after you have believed.
- Q3,69** Some of the **people in the book** would have liked to lead you astray. But they only lead astray themselves, and they are not aware of it.
- Q3,70** O **people of the book**, why do you not believe in the verses of God, while you are witnesses?
- Q3,72** Thus says one part of the **people of the book**: "Believe at the beginning of the day what has been brought down on those who believe, and be unbelieving at the end of the day! Perhaps these people will come back [from their error]."
- Q3,110** If the **people of the book** believed, it would be better for them, there are some who have faith, but most of them are perverts.
- Q3,71** O **people of the book**, why do you mix the false with the true and knowingly hide the truth?
- Q3,64** "O **people of the book**, come to a common word between us and you: that we worship only God, without associating anything with Him, and that we do not take one another as lords apart from God". Then, if they turn their backs, say: "Be witnesses that we are submissive".
- Q3,75** And there are some among the **people of the book** who, if you entrust a qintar to him, give it back to you. But there are also some who, if you entrust him with a dinar, will only give it back to you if you force him to do so. All this because they say: "Those (Arabs) who have no book have no way of compelling us." They speak lies against God when they know.
- Q3,98** "O **people of the book**, why do you not believe in the verses of God, when God is witness of what you are doing?"
- Q3,99** O **people of the book**, why do you obstruct the way of God to him who has faith, and why do you want to make that way crooked, when you are witnesses of the truth?
- Q3,65** O **people of the book**, why do you dispute about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel did not come down until after him? Do you not reason then? 3,67. Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Nazarene. He was entirely subject to God. And he was not one of the Associates.
- Q3,113** But they are not all the same. Among the **people of the book**, there is an upright community that recites the verses of God in the hours of the night, prostrating itself.
- Q3,199** Certainly there are among the **people of the book those** who believe in God and in what has been brought down to you and in what has been brought down to them. They are humble towards God, and do not sell the verses of God at a low price.
- Q4,123** This depends neither on your desires nor on the **people of the book**.
- Q4,159** There will be no one among the **people of the book who** will not have faith in him [Jesus] before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.
- Q4,171** O **people of the book**, do not exaggerate in your religion, and say of God only the truth.
- Q4,153** The **people of the book** ask you to bring down a Book from heaven.
- Q5,15** O **people of the book!** Our Messenger has certainly come to you, exposing to you much of what you have been hiding from the book.
- Q5,19** O **people of the book!** Our Messenger has come to enlighten you after an interruption of the messengers, so that you may not say: "There has come to us neither forewarner nor warner".
- Q5,59** Say: "O **people of the book!** Do you reproach us for anything other than believing in God, in what has been brought down to us [Gospel] and in what has been brought down before [Torah]? But most of you are perverted.
- Q5,68** Say: "O **people of the book**, you can stand on nothing, until you conform to the Torah and the Gospel and to what has been sent down to you from your Lord". And certainly what has been sent down to you from your Lord will increase many of them in rebellion and disbelief. Therefore, do not torment yourself for the people who cover up.
- Q5,65** If the **people of the book** believed and practised piety, We would certainly cover their misdeeds and certainly introduce them into the Gardens of Delight.
- Q5,77** O **people of the book**, do not exaggerate in your religion, opposing the truth. Do not follow the passions of people who have gone astray before, who have led many astray and who have gone astray from the straight path.
- Q5,5** You are allowed to eat the food of **the people of the book**.
- Q29,46** And discuss only in the best way with the **people of the book**, except with those who are unjust.
- Q33,26** And He brought down from their strongholds those of the **people of the book** who had supported them, and He cast fear into their hearts; and a company of them ye slew, and a company ye took prisoner.
- Q57,29** So that the **people of the book may** know that they have no access to God's grace and that grace is in God's hand; He gives it to whomever He wills, and God is the Holder of immense grace.
- Q59,11** Have you not seen the hypocrites saying to their brethren who have covered among the **people of the book**
- Q59,2** He it is He who expelled from their homes those of the **people of the book who did** not believe at the time of the first exodus.
- Q98,1** The collectors among the **people of the book**, as well as the Associates, will not cease to disbelieve until they are given clear evidence
- Q98,6** The Collectors among the **people of the book and** the Associates will go into the fire of Hell, to dwell there for ever.

## 46 other occurrences of the word *kitab* ("Book") in the Quran in which it characterises a community, depending on the use it makes of it (other than in the expression "people of the book")

- Q2,78** And there are among them [the people of Moses] clans that know of the book only their own claims, and they only make conjecture.
- Q2,79** Woe, then, to those who with their own hands write a **book** and then present it as coming from God in order to make a vile profit out of it!
- Q2,85** Do you therefore **believe** in one part of the book and reject the rest?
- Q2,101** And when a messenger came to them from God confirming what was already with them, some to whom the book **had been** given, threw the book of God behind their backs as if they did not know!
- Q2,121** Those to whom We have given the book, **and** who recite it as it should be, believe in it.
- Q2,144** Behold, those to whom the book has been given know that this is the truth from their Lord. And God is not unmindful of what they do.
- Q2,145** True, if you were to bring all the evidence to those to whom the book was given, they would not follow your tradition (qibla)!
- Q2,146** Those to whom we have given the book recognise it as they recognise their children. But some of them hide the truth, even though they know it!
- Q2,174** Those who hide what God has brought down from the book and sell it at a low price, they fill their bellies with nothing but Fire.
- Q2,213** People (originally) formed one (believing) community. Then God sent prophets as heralds and warners, and He sent down with them the book of Truth to settle their differences among the people. But those to whom it had been brought began to dispute over it, after the evidence had come to them, in a spirit of rivalry. Then God, by His Grace, guided those who believed to this Truth over which others disputed.
- Q3,19** Those to whom the book was brought did not quarrel, out of aggressiveness among themselves, until after they had received the science .
- Q3,20** And say to those to whom the book has been given, and to the illiterate [the Goyim]: "Have you embraced Islam [have you submitted]?"
- Q3,23** Have you not seen how those who have received a part of the book, and who are now invited to the book of God to settle their differences, act, how a group of them turn their backs and dodge?
- Q3,78** And there are some among them who roll up their tongues when they read the book to make you believe that this is from the book, **when** it is not from the book; and they say, "This is from God", when it is not from God. They knowingly speak lies against God
- Q3,79** It would not be fitting for a human being to whom God has given the book, the Understanding and the Prophecy, to say to people afterwards: "Be my worshippers, to the exclusion of God"; but on the contrary, [he should say]: "Become learned, obedient to the Lord, since you teach the book and study it".
- Q3,100** O the believers! If you obey a group of those to whom the book has been given, He will make you coverers after you have had faith.
- Q3,119** You love them, even though they love you not; and you have faith in the whole **Book**.
- Q3,186** You will hear many unpleasant words from those to whom the book was given before you, and from the Associates.
- Q3,186** God took this commitment from those to whom the book was given: "Expose it, certainly, to the people and do not hide it". But they threw it behind their backs and sold it at a low price.
- Q4,44** Have you not seen those who have received part of the book buy straying and seek you to go astray from the [right] path?
- Q4,47** O ye who have been given the book, believe in what We have sent down, confirming what ye have already prophesied.
- Q4,51** Have you not seen those to whom part of the book has been given, putting faith in magic and taghout, and saying in favour of those who do not believe: "These are better guided (on the way) than those who have believed"?
- Q4,131** This is what We have enjoined on those to whom before you the book was given, as well as on yourselves. And if you do not believe (this does not harm God, for) verily to God alone belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth.
- Q4,140** In the book he has already revealed this to you: when you hear that people deny God's verses and make fun of them, do not sit down with them until they begin another conversation.
- Q5,5** You are permitted) virtuous women of the believers, and virtuous women of the people who received the book before you.
- Q5,44** We have sent down the Torah, in which there is guidance and light. It is on its basis that the prophets who submitted themselves to God, as well as the rabbis and teachers judge the affairs of the Jews. For they have been entrusted with the custody of the book of God, and they are the witnesses of it. Fear not therefore the people, but fear Me. And do not sell My teachings at a low price. And those who do not judge by the things which God hath brought down, these are the collectors.
- Q5,57** Don't adopt as allies those who mock and play your religion, among those to whom the book was given before you and among the collectors.
- Q6,20** Those to whom We have given the book recognize as they recognize their own children.
- Q6,89** To them have We brought the book, wisdom and prophecy. If these others do not believe in them, at least We have entrusted these things to people who do not deny them.
- Q6,114** Those to whom We have given the book know that it came down with the truth from thy Lord.
- Q7,169** Then followed them the successors who inherited the book, but who preferred what life on earth offers, saying, "We shall have forgiveness".
- Q7,170** And those who abide by the book and perform Salat, We do not let the reward of those who amend be lost.
- Q9,29** Combat to death those who believe neither in God nor in the Last Day, who do not forbid what God and His messenger have forbidden and who do not profess the religion of truth, among those who have received the book.
- Q10,94** And if you are in doubt as to what We have sent down to you, then ask those who read the book revealed before you.
- Q13,36** And those to whom We have already given the book rejoice at the fact that We have sent down to you. But some factions reject some of it (the deniers).
- Q13,43** And those who do not believe [the collectors] say, "You are not a messenger". Say: "God is sufficient as a witness between you and me, and those who have knowledge of the book".
- Q21,7** So ask the scholars of the book, if you don't know.
- Q23,62** We impose on no one but according to his ability. And with us is a **Book** that speaks the truth, and they shall not be wronged.
- Q29,47** Those to whom We have given the book believe in it. And among them are some who believe in it. And who rejects Our Verses but the coverers?
- Q35,29** Those who recite the book of God, and perform Salat, and spend in secret and in public of what We have bestowed on them, hope thus to make a trade that will never perish.
- Q42,14** Those to whom the book was given as an inheritance after them [the associates?] are truly in troubling doubt about it.
- Q57,16** Has not the time come for those who have believed, that their hearts may humble themselves at the mention of God and at what has come down from the truth? And not to be like those who received the book before them. And they found time long enough and their hearts hardened, and many of them are disobedient.
- Q62,2** He it is He who has sent to the **unlearned**, a Messenger from them, who recites to them His verses, purifies them and teaches them the book and Wisdom, though they were before in evident error,
- Q62,5** Those who have been entrusted with the Torah but have not applied it are like the donkey carrying **books**.
- Q74,31** We have not assigned as guardians of the Fire but the Angels. But We have not appointed the number of them except to test the Collectors, and also that those to whom the book has been brought may be convinced, and that the faith of those who believe may grow, and that those to whom the book has been brought and those who believe may have no doubt, and that those who have some disease in their hearts and the Collectors may say, "What then has God willed by this parable? "
- Q98,4** And those to whom the book was given were not divided until after the proof had come to them.

## **The global exegesis of the Quranic text : *an iconic passage about the People of the Book and the coverers***

- 4, 153. The **people of the Book** ask you to bring down a Book from heaven. **They** have already asked Moses something much more serious when **they** said, "Make us see God in the open!" Then lightning struck **them** for their wrong. Then **they** adopted the Calf even after the evidence had come to them. We forgave **them** this and gave Moses a declared authority.
- 4, 154. And to (obtain) **their** commitment, We brandished above **them** Mount Tor, We told **them**: "Enter through the door prostrate yourself"; We told **them**, "Do not transgress the Sabbath"; and We have made a firm commitment of **them**.
- 4,155. (We cursed **them**) because of **their breaking of the commitment, their covering [KFR] of the verses of God**, their unjustified murder of the prophets, and their word: "Our hearts are (veiled) and impervious" [to what?]. And reality, it was God who sealed their hearts **because of their covering**, because they believed very little.
- 4,156. And because of their **covering [KFR]** and the enormous calumny they pronounced against Mary.
- 4,157. And because of their word: "We really killed the Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, the Messenger of

**The "people of the Book" are the "people of the Jewish Scriptures": the Jews**  
**The "coverers" are the Jews who covered the Torah & prophecies with their own scriptures: the rabbinical (Talmudic) Jews**

# The global exegesis of the Quranic text : *the good community among the People of the Book*

There is a **good community (ummah)** among **the People of the Book**

- The "standing community" or the "group that acts righteously" among the Jews (Q3,113; Q5.66),
- The "small number" of them who did not betray the Torah (Q5,13)
- The group that recognized Jesus as the Messiah (Q2,101; Q4,159)
- The group that is opposed to rabbinical Jews and Christians (Q2,105)
- The group that considers the Torah and the Gospel sacred and holds the unaltered texts (Q2:75-79; Q5.59)
- The group who has the "true faith" (Q3,110), believes in God and the "Last Day", orders "the proper, forbids "the reprehensible" (Q3,113) and is humble towards God (Q3,199)

**3.113.** But **they** are not all the same. There is, among **the people of the Book**, a **standing community** that, at the hours of the night, recites the verses of God by prostrating itself.

**3,114.** **They** believe in God and the Last Day, order the proper, forbid the blamed, and contribute to good works. These are **among the good people**.

**3,115.** And whatever good **they** do, **they** will not be denied. For God knows the stakes well.

**3,116.** As for **those who do not believe** [KFR], neither their property nor their children will ever be able to serve them against God's punishment. And these are **the people of Fire**: they will dwell there forever.

**3,199.** There are certainly, among **the people of the Book**, **those who believe in God and in what has been brought down to you and in those who have been brought down to them**. They are humble to God, and do not **sell God's verses at a low price**.

# The global exegesis of the Quranic text : *An alliance between the good community among the People of the Book and the Believers*

There was an alliance between the good community among  
the "people of the Book" and the Believers (*muminun*)

- **Sharing women & table:**

5.5. You are allowed the food of **the people of the Book**, and **your** own food is allowed to them. (You are allowed) the virtuous women of the believers, and the virtuous women of **the people who received the Book before you**

24,3. The fornicator will marry only a fornicator or an associator [Christian]. And the fornicator will be married only by a fornicator or associationist [Christian]; and this was forbidden to **believers**.

- **Teaching the "good Jewish" religion:**

5.3. Today, I have completed **for you your** justice [*dîn*], and fulfilled **on you** my blessing [*dîn* : justice, judgment, set of religious rules that must be applied to be a just, a "righteous"; very badly translated by the word "religion"; used here to designate dietary rules adapted from kosher]

**Various teachings** on Jerusalem, the place of Abraham, the Jerusalem *qibla*, the *hajj*, its whereabouts, its rites, etc.

- **Establishing an alliance between Abraham and Ishmael to rebuild Jerusalem's Temple**

2,125. And We confided to **Abraham** and **Ishmael** this: "Purify My House for those who turn around, make a pious retreat there, bow to it and prostrate themselves there".

2,127. Then **Abraham** will raise the House from its foundations with the help of **Ishmael**

# The global exegesis of the Quranic text : *the Quranic Nazarene*

The Quranic Nazarenes were this good community among the "people of the Book" who made a divine alliance with the believers

- The Quranic Nazarenes belong to the People of the Book; they are no associationists; they are different from the other Jews

Q3,65-67; 5,51; 5,69; 22,17

- The Quranic Nazarenes were the "closest" to the Believers

**Q5.82.** You will certainly find that the fiercest enemies of believers are the Jews and those who associate [Christians]. And you will certainly find that **the closest to the believers** are those who say, "We are **Nazarenes**." It is that there are among them priests and monks, and that **they** do not swell with pride.

- The Quranic Nazarenes became enemies to the Believers

**Q5.51.** O believers! Do not take the Jews and **the Nazarenes** as allies; they are allies of one another [= 4.89]. And the one of you who takes them as allies, becomes one of their own. God certainly does not guide unjust people

- The Quranic Nazarenes broke the alliance

**Q5.14.** And of those who say: "We are **Nazarenes**", we have made their commitment. But they have forgotten some of what was reminded of them. So we aroused enmity and hatred among **them** until the Day of Resurrection. And God will inform **them** of what **they** were doing.

## Conclusion

### *what was the real influence of the Quranic Nazarenes in the emergence of Islam*

- The Quranic text proves the existence of a “righteous” Jewish group allied with the Believers: the Quranic Nazarenes
- What impact on all Arab factions? They were obviously related to the faction that took Jerusalem (maybe to other factions, cf. the “false prophets” of the SIN)
- A sure influence on the folios that will become the Quran - but how was the Quran constituted? As a book for of all Arab factions? As the book of the faction that took over Jerusalem?
- From the Quranic Nazarenes to the Judaeonazarenes: Gallez's hypothesis about their origin in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, from the judaeo-Christian community of Jerusalem, through the Ebionites and Nazarenes currents up to the 7<sup>th</sup>. c. Arab uprising.
- A groundbreaking discovery that makes us understand the apocalyptic expectations, why Jerusalem, and what was the role of the Messiah
- Islam emerged from a “failed apocalypse”, which led to the struggle of the Arab leaders (fitna), and to the creation of an autonomous entity, independent from Judaism, Nazarenism and Christianity (abd al Malik’s caliphate), which eventually disconnected from the reference to the Messiah Jesus (Abbassids)

**A very profound key for the understanding Islam**

## *Doctrina Jacobi (640)*

*“What can you tell me about **the prophet who has appeared with the Saracens?**”*

*He replied, groaning deeply: "He is false, for the prophets do not come armed with a sword. Truly they are works of anarchy being committed today and I fear that the first Christ to come, whom the Christians worship, was the one sent by God and we instead are preparing to receive the Antichrist.”*

## *Pseudo-Sebeos (ar.661)*

*“So they departed, taking the road through the desert to Tachkastan to the sons of Ishmael.*

***[The Jews] called [the Arabs] to their aid** and familiarized them with the relationship they had through the books of the [Old] Testament. (...).*

*In that period a certain one of them, a **man of the sons of Ishmael** named **Muhammad**, a merchant, became prominent. A sermon about the Way of Truth, supposedly at God's command, was revealed to them, and [Muhammad] taught them to recognize the God of Abraham, especially since he was informed and knowledgeable about Mosaic history., elsewhere.*

*He said: "God promised that country to Abraham and to his son after him. (...) Now, however, you are the sons of Abraham, and God shall fulfill the promise made to Abraham and his son on you. Only love the God of Abraham and go and take the country which God gave to your father, Abraham.*

*“When the Arabs came to Jerusalem, there were **with them men from among the sons of Israel** who showed them the location of the Temple”*

## *Pseudo-Sebeos (ar.661)*

*“Now I shall speak about the plot of the Jewish rebels, who, **finding support from the Hagarenes** for a short time, planned to [re]**build the temple of Solomon**. Locating the place called the holy of holies, they constructed [the temple] with a pedestal, to serve as their place of prayer. But the Ishmaelites envied [the Jews], expelled them from the place, and named the same building their own place of prayer. [The Jews] built a temple for their worship, elsewhere.”*