



Brother Yusaf Pender

I Grew up in Co.Clare. In just a small fishing village in the west of **Ireland**. Like everyone else I was born a Catholic. I only went to Church at Christenings, Funerals etc. Religion was never a big part of my life. But a point came in my life when I felt there was something missing. Something important. I felt that I needed to know what the purpose was in my life. Why was I on this earth? Is there a reason for all of this? Is there a God?

I looked to the Bible. I decided to investigate the Bible and really read it slowly and follow every word to find answers. I found that while there are a lot of good teachings in the Bible but that overall it was not speaking to me. There were too many factual errors, scientific errors, philosophical pitfalls and generally I felt that this book did not understand human nature nor complement the human condition. I felt that the whole concept of original sin, creationism and the sonship of Jesus Christ was wrong. And that with a little contemplation and research this doctrine fell down.

Having been satisfied in my heart that Christianity was not the correct perception of God and Gods plan for Humanity I set out to investigate other religions in the world. It is interesting to think that the religion which we subscribe to has really nothing to do with us in terms of choice. None of us chose where in the world we would be born or to what parents or indeed into which religion or ideology. If I was born in India most probably I would have been a Hindu, in Pakistan a Muslim, in Tibet a Buddhist. I decided to think for myself as to which religion was the right one.

First off my first criteria was that could I find a religion that could prove to me that God existed and if so what kind of God. Because we live in such a vast, incomprehensively beautiful and precisely ordered universe, like a most finely tuned time piece, I knew that if there is a God he must also be perfect and possess all perfect attributes I prayed very hard to the one true God and was ready to accept the truth whatever it may be. I was also prepared for the distinct possibility that I would indeed find no answers and would have to concede that there was no God.

I went through Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism Sikhism, other eastern religions etc but found that while like Christianity they all had some good qualities and some fine teachings but that ultimately they seemed to me like rivers which had dried up. Cut off from their source. **They all spoke about “long ago” when God used to speak to man but now he has become strangely quiet and that we have to make do with these rather confusing books that he has given us.**

I was coming to the end on my tether. I had exhausted the A to Z of religions and to no avail. At least seemingly. Islam? You must be joking. It was after 9/11 and the last thing I was after was a repressive, totalitarian, bearded and what ever else the mass media was saying at the time, lifestyle.

However one day as I was watching telly, and flicking through the channels. **Suddenly I came to a channel called MTA.** There was a very pious looking gentleman with a beautiful beard and such a radiant smile. He was answering a question which was posed to him. The question? How can you prove that God exists. He spoke with such wisdom and common sense. He elevated the name of God and the belief in God out of the medievalism which it had become associated with. I was electrified. My god, this man was making sense.. **He turned out to be Hazret Mirza Tahir Ahmad** , the 4th and now late successor to one whom I shall introduce in a moment.

I continued to watch this channel for a number of months. **Ahmadiyyat?** What was Ahmadiyyat? It was a **dynamic movement within Islam.** A force for reforming the Islamic Ummah, re-instating the true understanding of the Qur’an, the Muslim Holy book and unifying Muslims all over the world by bringing them back to the true pure teachings or “Sunnah”. This Blessed Community was also at the forefront of defending and upholding the name and character of The Holy Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the Seal of the Prophets.

Their founder, **Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as)** claimed on the basis of divine revelation in 1891 to be that **Messiah** that was awaited not just by Muslims but by Christians, Jews and others also. Now this was a new obstacle presented before me. Just as I was about to shout EURICA something else or some other challenge come in front of me. I thought to myself

“well God has led me this far. He has not let me down. He has answered my humble prayers. Perhaps at least for the sake of God I will have a little look and see about this person”

I went back to the Bible as well as reading the Qur’an and authentic sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) to see what they said about this person, when he would come, how, what would be the condition of the world, what signs would there be etc.. Then I had a look at the life, character, and teachings of this person from his own words. It took me some time & research but I was satisfied. Satisfied means that as I was a scientifically minded person, a no nonsense type of person who was genuine about finding the truth wherever it lay that I had exhausted all and any doubt. I became fully convinced that this man Mirza Ghulam

Ahmad was indeed who he had claimed to be. There are so many reasons why he is true. And I wish there was some room here to share this wonderful information with you.

I became a Muslim in February 2005. I am so blessed that I have an **Irish Imam** who understands the uniqueness of being both Irish and a Muslim. I have had my ups and downs spiritually but definitely I can honestly say that I have now no reservations or doubts about the existence of God or my place in the big wide universe. Islam is the perfect religion. Allah is the one true God. The God of Mercy, Love, Forgiveness. Perfect and Most Holy. Maybe you are like me and are searching for truth Amin.

Don't feel like the odd one out any more. You're not the only one who has ever searched for ultimate truth. Every scientist, philosopher & person of faith in fact all of us are searching for that ultimate answer. I am so very blessed to have found it. Now I also invite you to truth.