

**“Oh Christ Worshipers!
We want an answer to our question from your wise.”**

On November 3rd, 2010, I received a challenge from an individual who wanted an answer for “What sort of God is this?” Specifically, he asked the question posed by the Islamic poet Ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyya in the 14th century. I was able to hear the poem sung in Arabic from the internet location below:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fe1Oj_LRSQ

An English translation of the poem from the Arabic was provided beneath the video, and also displayed across the screen with subtitles as it was sung.

When I talked with the person who said that they wanted an answer, I confirmed that it would be acceptable to provide a written response in English, answering the individual questions within the poem in ten sections.

It has occurred to me that although the original poet is dead, that because his questions are still being asked by Muslims hundreds of years later, that it would likewise be appropriate to post a public response. I have modified the original answer slightly for purposes of formatting and have answered as follows:

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1. "Oh, Christ worshipers! We want an answer to our question from your wise."

I do indeed worship Christ. I cannot say if I am "wise" but my bible says that God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Co 1:27) and I am commanded to be ready to give an answer to any man that asks a reason for the hope that is in me, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15).

Therefore, the poem is speaking to me, and I am commanded to answer.

2. "... what sort of God is this?"

"If the Lord was murdered by some people's act.... what sort of god is this?
We wonder! Was He pleased by what they did To him?
If yes, blessed be they.. they achieved the pleasure of His
But if He was discontented...
this means their power subjugated His!!"

This is the act of a God that so loved the world, that he would willingly endure this just to get our attention.

Joh 12:30-33

(30) **Jesus answered** and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

(31) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

(32) **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**

(33) This he said, signifying what death he should die.

This is the God that foretold these events from the beginning of the world, who spoke this unto his prophets who recorded these in the Hebrew scriptures and was powerful enough to make it happen.

Was he pleased by this? He forgave them, even as they did this.

Luk 23:33-34

(33) And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

(34) **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

He strongly rebuked his disciple Peter, who would have prevented him from going up to Jerusalem to be crucified.

Mat 16:21-23

(21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, **how that he must go unto Jerusalem**, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

(22) Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

(23) **But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan:** thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

To directly answer your question, yes, this was his will, and this is indeed a powerful God, and one that loves all of His children very much, and would willingly forgive them when they sin against Him in ignorance, if they will repent and believe on Him.

3. "Who answered the prayers?"

"Was the whole entity left without an All-Hearfull Sustainer...
so who answered the prayers?

Were the heavens And The Skies vacated...

when He laid under the ground And The Sand Over Him (in the Grave)?

Were all the worlds left without a God... to manage while His hands were nailed?"

This is more of a question of the power of God.

We are talking about the God that created the heavens and the earth. My God is powerful enough to walk the earth, and rule from heaven, at the same time. One of the simpler analogies that I can use is that he is very big.

If I had a cage with a pet mouse inside, I could reach my hand into the cage, and the mouse would see my hand, but I would still exist outside the cage.

Can God be entirely contained within his own creation? No more than I can be entirely contained in a mouse cage, but my hand can enter the cage, and it is still "me." That little cage couldn't hold all of me, and it would break if it tried.

The Old Testament records numerous instances where God walked and talked with his creation. He ate the food offered to him by Abraham and he physically wrestled with Jacob for an entire night. God could have blasted Jacob to dust with a glance, but he chose to wrestle, limiting his strength for a reason. He knocked Jacob's thigh out of joint with a touch, just to test his determination.

Who was answering prayers while God wrestled Jacob during that night? **God did, God in Heaven, outside of the limitations from inside His Own creation.** He can do more than one thing at a time, and He can be in more than one place at a time, because He is God.

4. "Why did not the angels help Him?"

"Why did not the angels help Him when they heard him while he wailed?
How could the rods stand to bear the True Lord when He was fastened
How could the iron reach Him and Be Stuck To Him And Hurt Him?
How could His enemies' hands reach Him and slap His rear"

The angels held their place because they were obedient to Him and were commanded to withhold their might.

Mat 26:51-54

(51) And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

(52) Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

(53) **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?**

(54) **But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**

The rods and the iron fulfilled their purpose, because such was prophesied in the scriptures. Even the smallest details spoken of in the law, the prophets, and the writings **of the Hebrew scripture** came to pass.

When you see Jesus speak of "the Father" in scripture this means "God in heaven" just as "the Son of God" means "God in physical form." God can take physical form: how else did he speak to Adam and Eve in the garden, and how did God walk in the garden without feet?

Gen 3:8

(8) And they heard the voice of **the LORD God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

God can choose whether He allows rods or iron or fire to hurt him, but when God appears in the flesh, this is properly "**the Son of God.**" A king once threw three men into a furnace to kill them because they would not worship an image, and not only were there three men not burnt, but there appeared a fourth man in the fire, which this king called "**the Son of God.**" The fire killed the guards that got close enough to throw these three men in, though...

Dan 3:24-25

(24) Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

(25) He answered and said, **Lo, I see four men loose**, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; **and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**

Why did the angels not help Him? Because **they were obedient**, and far more sensible than Peter who attacked the servant of the priest that came to arrest Jesus. When Peter cut off that man's ear, Jesus healed him before he allowed them to finish arresting Him. That is the power and mercy of God.

Luk 22:48-51

(48) But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

(49) When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

(50) And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

(51) And Jesus answered and said, **Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.**

Anyone that can heal with his mere touch does not need the assistance of swords.

5. "Who Raised Christ?"

"And was Christ revived by himself... or the Reviver was another god?
What a Wonder it is! A grave that enclosed a god!"

The simplest answer is perhaps that which your poet did not expect: **Christ raised Himself.**

Joh 2:18-22

(18) Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

(19) **Jesus answered and said unto them,** Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.**

(20) Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

(21) **But he spake of the temple of his body.**

(22) When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Jesus told the Jews that he would raise Himself. This would be His sign to them.

Notice that his disciples did not understand this when they heard it, but afterward it says that they believed the scripture. The crucifixion and resurrection was also prophesied by the Hebrew scripture and the Old Testament, what you call the Torah.

6. "Unto us a child is born..."

"What's more weird is the belly that had Him in it!
He stayed there for nine months in utter darkness... fed by blood!
then he got out of the womb as a small baby, weak and gaping to be breastfed!
He ate and drank, and did what that naturally resulted in. Is this a god??!!!"

Who are we to question God? Yet this is the sign that he gave, through His Holy prophets. Yes, according to the Hebrew scripture which you call the Torah, this child was none other "**The mighty God, the everlasting Father...**"

Isa 7:14

(14) **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;** Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isa 9:6-7

(6) **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: **and his name shall be called** Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father,** The Prince of Peace.

(7) Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Mat 1:20-25

(20) But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

(21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(22) **Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,** saying,

(23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

(24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

(25) And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

7. Accountability

"High Exalted be Allah above the lies of Christians
All of them will be held accountable for their libels"

This might surprise you, but I do not entirely disagree with your poet here. **Everyone will be held to account** for what they do and say, whether they call themselves Muslim, Christian, or Atheist.

Mat 12:36-40

(36) But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

(37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

(38) Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, **Master, we would see a sign from thee.**

(39) But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

(40) **For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

I included the next couple verses, because I thought it most appropriate that these words from Jesus led straight to his own prophesy that he would lay for three days and nights in the heart of the earth. This he did, until the stone was rolled away and he walked out of the tomb.

The Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities would have produced a body if they could. They had no reason to fake His resurrection. Yet they could not, not even with the cooperation of the Jewish religious leaders and the entire resources

of the Roman army at their disposal. You cannot produce a body that simply is not there.

8. The Cross

"Of cross worshipers... for what reason is it exalted and blamed who rejects it? Is it not the logic to break and burn it along with the one who innovated it? Since the Lord was crucified on it... and his hands were fastened to it?"

The cross is a **metaphor** of the love of God, our Passover, whose blood was shed for our transgressions, that we might live. The cross was foretold even in the earliest symbols of the first Passover given to Israel through Moses.

Exo 12:5-7

(5) Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

(6) And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

(7) **And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**, wherein they shall eat it.

The cross was also foretold when the LORD commanded Moses to raise up a serpent upon a pole (a type of cross) that everyone that looketh upon it might live.

Num 21:8-9

(8) **And the LORD said unto Moses**, Make thee a fiery serpent, **and set it upon a pole**: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, **when he looketh upon it, shall live**.

(9) And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Joh 3:14-15

(14) **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:**

(15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Joh 12:32-34

(32) **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**

(33) This he said, signifying what death he should die.

(34) The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

The cross is not an idol, and not something to be worshipped. The LORD commanded Moses to make the brasen serpent as a symbol of the Christ, but the symbol itself was not to be worshipped. Later, this same symbol that the

LORD had Moses create had to be destroyed because Israel had turned it into an idol.

2Ki 18:3-4

(3) **And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD**, according to all that David his father did.

(4) He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, **and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it:** and he called it Nehushtan.

The cross represents the love of God, that while we were sinners, he died for us. For this reason it is cherished, not as an idol, and not as if **the symbol** had any power of its own. It matters not if a hundred or a million crosses are broken or trodden under foot, because the Lord of Glory has already proved His power by rising from the dead.

Rom 5:8-10

(8) **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

(9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

(10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

1Jn 3:16

(16) **Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:** and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

9. The Cross, Part II

"That is really a cursed cross to carry... so Step On It With Your Foot

Don't kiss it when You See It!

The Lord was abused on it... and you adore it?

So you are one of His enemies!!"

To the world, the preaching of the cross is foolishness. Most people do not understand true strength and power, and mistake kindness for weakness. This is not our God and Christ. True strength and power and might and glory are coupled with love and mercy and justice. As Christ was willing to die for us, so we must also be willing to follow His example.

Mar 8:34-38

(34) And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

1Co 1:18-19

(18) **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

(19) For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

If one does not understand love, one cannot understand the cross.

10. The Grave

If you extol it because it carried the Lord of the worlds
why don't you prostrate yourself and worship graves,
since the grave contained your god in it?
So, Christ worshiper, Wake up, this is His Start And This Is His End."

The grave was unable to contain our Lord. The true Christian does not fear death, for Christ has conquered the grave and proved that he is the Lord of Life. Why should we worship that which was conquered?

Yes, I worship God and Christ. The word meaning of the title "Christ" means "Messiah" or "Saviour." There is One God and Christ, One Saviour, one Mighty God, One Everlasting Father, One Prince of Peace, and there is none beside him.

Isa 45:21-22

(21) Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? **and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.**

(22) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Isa 9:6

(6) For unto us a child is born, **unto us a son is given:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: **and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

It is interesting that the poet mentions **the beginning and the end**, because this is also **one of the names of God**.

Isa 44:6

(6) **Thus saith the LORD** the King of Israel, and his redeemer **the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last;** and beside me there is no God.

Rev 22:12-16

(12) And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

(13) **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

(14) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

(15) For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

(16) **I Jesus** have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

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Concluding Comments that Accompanied the Original Letter

This is why I worship a just God and Saviour, also called the Christ, for there is no other beside Him. He was lifted up on the cross that he might draw all men unto him, and he raised himself after three days and three nights. This might seem impossible for mortal man, but God is powerful enough to exist in Heaven and walk the earth at the same time, just as I can insert my hand into a mouse cage and thus exist inside and outside of the cage at the same time.

Jesus was truly God manifested in the flesh, and this was prophesied by the holy prophets and recorded in the scriptures. The preaching of the cross is the love of God for all men that they should also know the love of God towards their fellow man, and likewise take up their cross and follow Him and His example.

This is the message that is entirely consistent with the Jewish and Christian scriptures. If the Quraan disagrees, then there is a contradiction between these sources, and perhaps this could be addressed.

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Epilogue:

My answer above does not claim to be fully exhaustive. It was subjected to practical space limitations, and also because the questioner had told me that he was not skilled with written English. In essence, I was trying to keep it “short and simple” for his sake.

If you or anyone you know requires a more complete answer than this, I would gladly explain any of these points further, or answer any additional questions. I may be reached at brother.bird.Rning@gmail.com.

-Andrew

Appendix A: The poem of Ibn al-Qayyim al-Jawziyya

The subtitles within the video and the printed translation provided by the host differed slightly. My response used the subtitles in the video. Here is the other version of the English translation that was provided:

* * *

"O Christ-worshippers! We want an answer to our question [from your wise ones],
If the Lord was murdered by some people's act, what kind of god is this?
We wonder! Was He pleased by what they did to Him?
If yes, blessed be they, they achieved His pleasure,
But if He was discontented, this means their power had subjugated Him!
Was the whole entity left without a Sustainer, so who answered the prayers?

Were the heavens vacated, when He laid under the ground somewhere?
Were all the worlds left without a God, to manage while His hands were nailed?
Why did not the angels help Him, when they heard him while he wailed?
How could the rods stand to bear the True Lord when He was fastened,
How could the irons reach Him and [had] His body pinned?
How could His enemies' hands reach Him and slap His rear,

And was Christ revived by himself, or was the Reviver another god?
What a sight it was, a grave that enclosed a god,
Stranger still is the belly that confined Him!
He stayed there for nine months in utter darkness, fed by blood!
Then he got out of the womb as a small baby,
Weak and gasping to be breast-fed!
He ate and drank, and did what that naturally resulted,
Is this [what you call] a god?
High Exalted be Allah above the lies of Christians,
All of them will be held accountable for their libels!

O Cross-worshippers! For what reason is this exalted and blame [is cast upon
those] who reject it?
Is it not logical to break and burn it, along with the one who innovated it?
Since the Lord was crucified on it, and his hands were fastened to it?
That is really a cursed cross to carry,
So discard it, do not kiss it!

The Lord was abused on it, and you adore it?
So [it is clear that] you are one of His enemies!
If you extol it because it carried the Lord of the Worlds,
Why don't you prostrate yourself and worship graves,
Since the grave contained your god in it?
So Christ-worshipper, open your eyes,
This is what the matter is all about. "