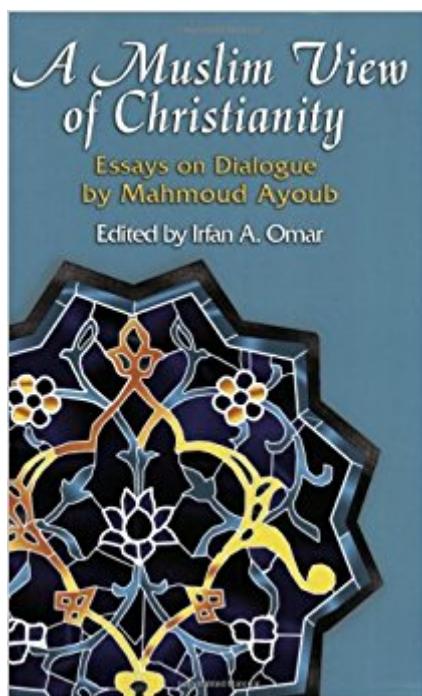


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# A Muslim View Of Christianity: Essays On Dialogue (Faith Meets Faith Series)



## **Synopsis**

This major collection of essays begins with a brief biography of well-known Islam scholar Mahmoud Ayoub and a substantial introduction by Ayoub to his study of Christianity and Muslim-Christian dialogue. A bibliography of Ayoub's significant publications is included. The essays are grouped into four sections.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Mahmoud Ayoub is Professor of Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. He has lectured around the world on Islamic history and related topics and is the author of many books and articles.

I was most interested in Ayoub's notion of an inherently Islamic christology, whereby the denial of the crucifixion of Issa/Jesus in the Quran can be interpreted as having been in fact a denial of the crucifixion of his spirit (referred to as the Word of God in the Quran), while his physical body was crucified (i.e. 'so it appeared to them, but verily he was not crucified'). This interpretation is consistent with the bible we have today. Thus the Quran in this sense can be seen as a historically accurate document from the perspective of evangelical Christians. This provides new avenues for dialogue and understanding.

I read this book in a senior level college class entitled "Jesus in the New Testament and the Qur'an" at Piedmont College in Demorest Georgia, taught by Barbara Brown Taylor. Out of the three books

that were assigned for this class this was the only one that was written by an Islamic author. This could be one of the reasons that I enjoyed it the most out of the three. Ayoub does an excellent job of portraying his own tradition, Islam, and describing the view of Christianity from his own perspective. This allows the reader (assuming that they are a westerner, as most reading this book will probably be) a rare chance to step outside of one's own culture and view it through the eyes of another. Whether a person is Christian or not, there is no denying that the Christian worldview has attributed to the culture of western world; therefore, there is no need to approach this book from a devotional perspective to reap great rewards from its content. This is not an easy read, it is quite academic in nature, but the language used is not pretentious, and a novice student of religion would be able to work through it relatively easily with time. In closing, I highly recommend this book to those that wish to achieve a more educated view of not only Islam, but also Western Christianity as well.

This book contains a collection of accessible essays by Professor Ayoub and covers a variety of topics. They place emphasis on the bonding links shared by Islam and Christianity as well as the theological distinctions between the two. There are also discussions on the methods for dialogue between the faiths and the importance of such dialogue. I would recommend that readers have an introductory academic grasp of both religions before reading these essays. Professor Ayoub provides a basic introduction to deeper theological aspects of both faiths and compares the two using methods familiar to Christianity. I would recommend this book to a well read Christian that is interested in learning where both faiths differ and more importantly how they are similar. This book opens the door to many for constructive dialogue and deeper studies of two rich religious traditions.

Irfan Omar has put together an insightful collection of essays written by Mahmoud Ayoub pertaining to two major world religions, Islam and Christianity. For someone with little background in either tradition, Ayoub manages to discuss both traditions in an well-rounded manner. He doesn't assume his reader is already significantly well read in the subject area, and thus is easy to follow given the necessary time to immerse oneself in the literature. From his writings you can illicit such fundamental differences between the two traditions as to how overlapping major figures are perceived in the context of vastly intricate and evolving societies. Yet Ayoub also maintains that, both being Abrahamic traditions, there is common ground that can be used to bridge the gap between Islam and Christianity. There is much to be learned from the interfaith dialogue that can easily stem from ideas in Ayoub's writings. At the very least, the reader should expect to gain a

better knowledge and understanding of both of these great traditions without feeling "recruited" by either.

Irfan A. Omar edits an outstanding collection of essays highly recommended for Muslim and Christian spiritual collections alike: they serve as a bridge between the two religions and represent the reflections and insights of a highly regarded scholar in Christian-Muslim dialogue. These are essays previously published by Ayoub and gathered conveniently from a range of sources under one cover, offering studies which vary from analysis of the roots Quar'anic thought to modern religious applications. Students who would better understand either religion or the dialogue between the two must have these writings, which represent both the foundations of intercultural communications and the essentials of spiritual communication between religious perspectives. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

Dr Ayoub is near the top of a short list of scholars able to truly represent both views of Christian/Islamic interfaith studies.

good

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