|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assumptions/Surprises about the Qur’an from Chat Box** | **Eleanor Comments** | **Motaz Comments** |
| assumption was by another Christian friend said that She assumed that The Quran was inspired to Prophet Muhammad and he wrote it down in a book (Fatima) | This assumption about the Qur’an has been made through the lens of a Christian theology, namely that God inspired/ illuminated the minds of men to write the Bible texts [2 Peter 1:20-21].  Christian theology has been applied to the Qur’an. | The Qur’an mentioned in more than one verse that Muhammad was illiterate, neither reading nor writing  Muslims consider the illiteracy of Muhammad, peace be upon him, further evidence that the Qur’an is not his own, but is a revelation from God  In Surah (29:48): You did not read any scripture before this, nor did you write it down with your right hand; otherwise the falsifiers would have doubted.  In Surah (7:157): Those who follow the Messenger, the Unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in the Torah and the Gospel in their possession.  Also among the companions of Muhammad was a group called "Writers of Revelation", and Muhammad used to recite the Quran to them while they were writing |
| Quran seen as holy book written Mohammed (Philip). | As above theology | As above |
| The assumption that the Qur’an is “dis-jointed” and difficult to understand - this is a misunderstanding that the Qur’an is predominantly narrative rather than exhortation (Eleanor) | This assumption about the Qur’an has been made by viewing the Qur’anic text through the lens of biblical narrative hermeneutics. Once the Christian reader understands the Qur’anic use of narrative texts, the Qur’an will no longer appear disjointed. | To ensure an understanding of the Qur’an as a single unit, or at the very least to understand the interconnectedness between the verses and the Suras, the Islamic (Quranic) hermeneutical tools should be used as a part of the Qur’an and its sciences.  There are special sections and specialized books on how to understand the Qur’anic text and take into account the linguistic, rhetorical, and historical aspects, in addition to the time and place of revelation, and what is the reason for revelation ... etc.  Using the hermeneutical approach used in the Bible will not be sufficient for understanding the Qur’an |
| The way the Quran is arranged with need to understand the context of the recitations; relationships with the one chapter and the other. (surprise) (Harun) | Similar to above. The assumption has been made on the basis of biblical hermeneutics. | As above |
| Shock ~ adam and eve did not exercise free-will in eating of forbidden tree as seen in Quran (viewed rather as Devil deceived them). (Philip) | This surprise occurred because the Qur’an was read through the lens of a Christian theology (namely the theology of the fall/freewill) | The story of Adam and Eve must be understood as it is in the context of the Qur’an.  God in the beginning commanded Adam and Eve not to obey Satan, when Satan refused to prostrate to Adam according to the Qur’anic narration, God commanded Adam not to obey Satan, and warned him that Satan would try to deceive him to get him out of heaven  Adam’s sin according to the Qur’an is compound ; Obeying the whispers of Satan, then eating from the tree |
| Two Christian friends thought that as The Quran was in Arabic it was un-translatable and had to be read in its original language (Breakout Room). | The problem of terminology [“un-translatable”] *may* have contributed to this situation. It is true that no “translation” of the Qur’an exists. However, the “interpretation” of the Qur’an in many non-Arabic languages can be read.. | Yes, it is true, and this is a thought of many Muslim scholars  Translation into a language other than Arabic; It is a translation of the meaning and not a literal translation, and therefore even non-Arab Muslims (they constitute the majority of the majority of Muslims in the world, more than 75% of the Muslims in the world are not Arabs) read the Qur’an in Arabic in prayer and worship in general  Muslim scholars are influenced by this, and therefore when Muslim researchers begin to study the Bible, they try to study the Hebrew version of the Old Testament and the "Aramaic or Greek" version of the New Testament. That is, they search for the mother tongue of the Bible, just as Muslims do with the Qur’an |
| I was very surprised to see the plural pronouns “we” used in the Qur’an to refer to God (Eleanor) [the assumption is that it would always be singular] | This assumption was made on the basis of the theological understanding that Islam would strongly reject any reference to plurality with reference to God. | The Qur’an’s use of everyone’s pronoun “we” is a method in the Arabic language widely used to respect and honor people  The student addresses his teacher through the plural pronoun, not the singular, and the grandson addresses his grandfather and grandmother with the same plural pronoun  In official speeches as well, the opening speech is for example: We, the President of the United States, have decided the following ... etc. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assumptions/Surprises about the Qur’an from Chat Box** | **Eleanor Comments** | **Motaz Comments** |
| Before I read the Holy Bible, I thought that Torah and the bible are 2 different books. and the old testament is the old version of the bible while you new testament was new verse of the bible (Khadija) | This assumption may be based on viewing the Bible through the lens of the Muslim theology of abrogation, the concept of newer revelations replacing older revelations. | The Bible for Jews is the Torah only (the first five books or sometimes more)  For Christians, the Bible consists of two Testaments; The Torah (Old Testament) which was a revelation to Moses  And the New Testament (the Bible), which was a revelation to Jesus according to the Islamic perspective  Muslims believe that the Bible was revealed to Jesus and not to the apostles , and the Qur’an does not refer to the existence of more than one Bible, nor does it refer to the letters from Paul or and one else.  The Qur’an compares the companions of Muhammad to the apostles of Jesus, and it does not mention that they had any miraculous miracles or that the revelation was revealed to them |
| She was shocked to know that Bible was a compilation of books. About so many stories (Break out room) | This surprise may be due to viewing the Bible through the lens of the Muslim theology that the Torah was sent down to Moses and that the Injil was sent to down to Jesus. | This is strange thing for Muslims, as I mentioned earlier, because the Qur’an refers to only one Bible revealed to Jesus  Muslims deal with the holy books of the prophets in this way; Every prophet has a holy book revealed to it  Moses ... Torah  David .. Zabur (Psalm)  Jesus .. Bible (The Gospel)  Muhammad ... Quran  The Qur’an mentions the names of these holy books collectively many times and does not differentiate them  Of the six basic pillars of faith in Islam; Belief in these holy books and that they were revealed to the prophets .. It must be noted that Muslims consider the Bible and the Torah distorted now by priests in the first ages |
| I thought the bible equivalent Biography of the Prophet (Sira+Hadith) and Quran equivalent Jesus in a way or another (Motaz) |  | When comparing the Qur’an and Jesus: Muslims regard the Qur’an as the eternal Word of God, free from error, and absolutely complete  The biography of Muhammad is the practical application of the teachings of the Qur’an, the word of God, and the Bible is the practical application of Christ, the Word of God |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Other comments from Chat Box** | **Eleanor Comments** | **Motaz Comments** |
| A Christian, she was told it's not good to hold a Qur'an (Breakout Room)  From Nigerian perspective, Christians can't touch less open pages in it. (Philip)  it is not good for a Christian to handle the QURAAN (Breakout Room) | More information about the perceived outcome of a Christian touching the Qur’an would need to be given for analysis to take place. [Could be socio-cultural]. | Muslims believe that respecting the Qur’an means that you read it while you are clean, and that you should perform ablution before holding it  Non-Muslims, of course, can hold the Qur’an and read it for study, education and knowledge |
| The Quran is for Muslims and we should not read it. From my Christian friends. (Harun) | This Christian assumption is not based on theology or hermeneutics. More information about the perceived outcome of a Christian reading the Qur’an would need to be given for analysis to take place. [Could be socio-cultural]. | Muslims always argue with Christians on this point  Muslims repeat the phrase: “I followed Jesus and did not lose Muhammad.” I believe in the Bible and I did not lose the Qur’an.  By this, Muslims mean that they believe in all the holy books and all the messengers, and they do not exclude one of them |
| A Muslim, alhaji, People and friends tell him that going to church is not good (Breakout Room) | This assumption is not based on theology. More information about the perceived outcome of Muslim attending church would need to be given for analysis to take place. [Could be socio-cultural] | A socio-cultural issue more than a religious issue |