

**Review: Ms Gulshan Esther, *The Torn Veil*, Marshall Pickering,
London, 1984**

Pages: 150

Miracles in Pakistan

The amazing story of a Pakistani Muslim girl, crippled after birth, which not even a pilgrimage to Mecca or prayers to Allah could heal. Gulshan Fatima [Esther] began seeking Jesus as best she could from the Quran, and started praying to him over a period of three years.

One morning at 3am, aged nineteen, Gulshan's prayer to Jesus for healing was answered, and her wasted limbs could now support her. Through this sign she believed and was emboldened to share her new Christian faith, then get baptised.

Whilst her family accepted Jesus had healed her, at a meeting they said for the sake of Islam they could murder her. Gulshan then left, but was called back after a while for her 'dead' sister, who Jesus told her was not dead. Through a second miracle the sister was raised from the dead and also became a Christian, but lived so secretly until her death.

Things turned worse for Gulshan and she was tricked, ending up in jail for a time, before being rescued by her sister. The Lord delivered her from many trials and she was able to share the gospel in Pakistan until her death.

The book gives details of Islamic customs and traditions, and what Muslims believe about Christians and Christianity which helps the believer answer some standard objections, e.g:

-Denying God could have a son.

-Christians worship three gods.

-Conflating the morals of a 'Christian' country like England with what the Bible teaches, and how a true Christian behaves.

-An imagined history of Abraham visiting Mecca with his son of bondage, Ishmael, and building what became the pagan cube the Ka'aba.

-Eating sacrificial lambs to honour Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Ishmael [not Isaac!] on Mount Moriah (the Eid al Adha).

-Pilgrims walk around the Ka'aba in an anticlockwise direction, and God threw its black stone down to Adam.

An incredible story considering what persecution and difficulty Gulshan experienced as an ex-Muslim and Christian living in an Islamic country.

The author's family is claimed to be a descendant of Muhammad, a *sayed* and a *shah*.

Muslims believe in the healing springs of the Zamzam well, the spring God opened to give the cast-out Hagar and Ishmael some water.

The burka is a head-to-toe covering with a net over the nose and mouth. It dulls sight and hearing senses. The Turkish burka is divided at the waist.

A friend-Sheikh in Mecca had eight wives and eighteen children. The wives and daughters were well-educated but lived lives of vanity, gossiping and watching TV.

The Arabs take hospitality very seriously.

Mecca is surrounded by seven hills.

Pilgrims walk around the Kaa'ba in an anticlockwise direction in circumambulations.

Muhammad established Islam in Medina in 622 and died there. To this day Muslims throw money and flowers on his tomb.

Muhammad's grandson Hussein was martyred in Karbala, Iraq, by the Syrian Caliph Yazid. This caused the Shia-Sunni split that persists to today.

One morning at 3am, aged nineteen, Gulshan prayed to Jesus for healing and He answered. She was also given a commission to witness to His people in Pakistan.

The family accepted that Jesus had healed her, but at a family meeting incredibly said for the sake of Islam they could murder her.

Women are not required to attend mosque, only the men.

In Shia households men and women guests must sit in separate rooms.

Pakistani women were treated as personal property and must be hidden from view.

After working as a journalist for a short period, Gulshan was told she must return to the Muslim faith.

Her sister Anis died a secret believer in 1977.

Gulshan notes the comfort of being able to return to one's own home after exhausting gospel meetings someplace.