The Secret World of God: Aesthetics, Relationships, and the Conversion of ‘Frances’ from Shi’a Islam to Christianity

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Abstract

On a relatively sunny, summer morning (for Scotland) I met with Frances at a coffee shop in what I will call Castle City. We had met through a mutual acquaintance at a university and the local Episcopal parish. She is a slight woman possessing a strong if introspective personality and at ease with words that made conversation enjoyable. She looks completely at home in the UK (and this would also have been the case 100 years ago) reminding us that the nation’s name Iran is related to the English word Aryan. I do not claim that this is a complete picture of her conversion, which as with many conversions out of Islam—whether to Christianity, atheism, or humanism—took place over many years and I try to give due weight to the various phases in this complex process. Moreover, it must be noted that this is the account of a diaspora conversion, because many of the key events took place outside of Iran.

Shi’a Islam. Sikhism. Sufism. Flew wrote the argument supporting his conversion in There is A God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed his Mind in 2007. I say that Flew wrote it, but there’s little evidence to that it was actually him. In the first place, Roy Varghese’s name is on the cover as the coauthor. One of the reasons I converted from atheism to Christianity was both a logical conclusion of both study and realization. Here we were supposed intellectually superior, yet, acting like irrational hate filled bigots which is what we accused the Christians of being. I looked introspectively, and reread the Gospels with an open mind. Yeah it seemed full of impossibilities, but there was something else. Love, compassion, mercy, relationship. Christian converts from Islam. Beginning in the 1970s some Protestant pastors started to hold church services in homes in Persian, rather than in one of the ethnic Christian minority languages such as Armenian or Syriac. One of the key leaders who spearheaded this movement was the Assemblies of God bishop Haik Hovsepian Mehr. "The Secret World of God: Aesthetics, Relationships, and the Conversion of 'Frances' from Shi’ia Islam to Christianity"(PDF). Global Missiology. 9 (3). 1 The Secret World of God: Aesthetics, Relationships, and the Conversion of ‘Frances’ from Shi’a Islam to Christianity Duane. Alexander Miller 1 Published in “Diaspora Studies” - www.GlobalMissiology.org April 2012. Introduction On a relatively sunny, summer morning (for Scotland) I met with Frances at a coffee shop in what I will call Castle City. She looks completely at home in the UK (and this would also have been the case 100 years ago) reminding us that the nation’s name Iran is related to the English word Aryan. I do not claim that this is a complete picture of her conversion, which as with many