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5.2 How Jesus became God

I was led to this theory by my lifetime curiosity about the Virgin Birth which made no sense to me. Certainly, from the viewpoint of a religion, it might make sense that God would be born under unusual, “pure”, circumstances. But why virginity? To me, that was a direct insult to all mothers because the sanctity of marriage and childbirth are denigrated to a level below virginity. Procreation is always a most sanctimonious sacrament in any religion because it is the best way to increase the number of the faithful. Certainly an immaculate conception followed by a virgin birth would sound pure and magical, but such symbolic advantages are insufficient because the price is that the faithful will have to (unnecessarily) believe such an obviously impossible scenario in the real world. At first, I explained this mystery by noting that sometimes, religions purposely make their faithful believe the impossible under the theory that, the more impossible, the more it becomes believable to most of the faithful (as has been proven innumerable times in the history of religion), or that if the flock can be made to believe the unbelievable, they can be made to believe anything. Such power would give that religion more control over its flock. However, every irrational religious belief that I investigated had a historical origin. Because the bible is fundamentally based on history (with innumerable revisions and re-interpretations to fit new information that God taught us with the passage of time), I hoped that there was still sufficient historical truth in the bible to provide an answer to my riddle. Another mystery was the highly unusual prominence of Mary in Christianity, a religion founded at a time when women were not respected and had few rights. How did Mary become so important?

What are the irrefutable historical facts in the bible about Christ's birth? (1) Mary got pregnant, and (2) she was not married (but apparently betrothed to Joseph). I shall show below that these two facts are sufficient to lead to a plausible explanation of how Jesus became God.

Let's start by putting ourselves in Mary's shoes (or sandals). She is pregnant and unmarried. In those days, if such women had any enemies, they could easily be stoned to death and nobody might come to their help. It was quite common that teenagers would throw stones at them because they were considered evil sinners. How was Mary to protect herself and her baby? One ingenious device was to proclaim an immaculate conception and that she was carrying a child God in her womb. Humans were very superstitious in those days (see “5.1 What is Religion?”) and would have readily believed such a possibility – after all, there were already a dozen such beliefs all around them. At the very least, nobody could prove that it was false (except perhaps Joseph, but it was in his interest to keep quiet). This would protect Mary, exonerate her from sin, and perhaps even exonerate Joseph for impregnating a girl he was not married to, if he did. If enough people believed it, it would solve all her problems! This may be the historical force, the cause, the explanation, of how the virgin birth concept originated. In this sense, the bible is possibly a very accurate historical account and there is no intent to degrade the concepts of marriage and maternity. This would mean that historically, **Mary originated Christianity**, not Jesus and, in addition, explains why Mary is so revered. This hypothesis explains many other accounts of the bible, such as why Joseph never claimed paternity even after Jesus became famous.

In this atmosphere of circumstances and beliefs, Jesus was born. Thus even BEFORE he was born, Jesus was conceived as a God, as the bible correctly records. Even after Jesus's birth, this belief was never retracted; once such a belief is successfully implanted, why retract it when it has so many

advantages? In fact, it would reasonably follow that Mary and her family would nurture this concept and take full advantage of it. Thus Jesus was brought up from birth with this concept implanted in his mind. It was certainly advantageous for him to develop his skills at being God, and would have become extremely good at it, especially because his mother had been thinking about it since her pregnancy and could teach him everything she knew, such as respect for women, the evils of existing religions, and equality among all humans. This explains why Jesus became so good at the sociology of his time, and why he hated the competition, the temple priests. Thus some biblical anecdotes of Jesus performing miracles as a child are probably true. Look at Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods: what do they all have in common besides their miraculous successes? They were all trained in their professions by parents familiar with them from birth or before, just like Jesus. Mary became an expert on sociology and religion because her and her baby's lives depended on it.

Performing miracles was commonplace in Jesus's time. There were at least three other famous miracle performers and several were arrested and executed just like Jesus, to prove that they were human; more on this, and Jesus's resurrection, below. A well known biblical miracle with an earthly explanation is that of Jesus walking on water. It turns out that the Sea of Galilee has shallow ledges with water a few inches deep that extend far into the lake, and then suddenly drop off into deep water, where fish congregate. Jesus could have been standing at the edge of such a ledge, directing his disciples to drop their nets where the fish are, and the biblical story could have been born because for those standing on land, it was a miracle. Lazarus was Jesus's uncle, so staging his resurrection wasn't difficult. But then, were Jesus and his disciples intentionally misleading the populace? This was no worse than the virgin birth; Jesus was trying to teach his beliefs in social justice and human equality, and the more people believed in him, the easier his task. Religion became a family business.

I have a deep respect for Jesus, just as I respect the Nobel prize winners of today; he deserves his place as one of the most influential social reformers in human history. There is nothing false or questionable about those achievements compared to his deity, the virgin birth, or his miracles, all of which can be questioned and are therefore detrimental to Christianity. Thus deifying Jesus is a false process and an insult to Jesus compared to his real achievements as a true messenger from God. He was angry at the temples and the priests of his time because they were false. If he were alive today, he may be equally dismayed with the vatican, priests, mullahs, rabbis, monks, cult leaders etc., of today, with self-serving, contradictory beliefs, who see nothing wrong with sectarian warfare whereby more humans (tens of millions) have been killed than any other single cause of war. Thus, practically all the major religions of today, and specifically the three "Judeo-Christian" religions, violate the first, the fifth, and other Commandments. Those religions actually originated in Egypt under Akhenaten's rule, based on the concept of a single deity, and should be called "Egyptian" religions. Immediately after Akhenaten's death, the Egyptians quickly found out the this single deity concept is so exclusive that it led to endless sectarian killings and quickly drifted back to the multi-deity religions of old. Modern religions have yet to learn that lesson.

That doesn't mean that Jesus did not believe in religion. Around those times, religions were often closest to God in the sense that they were the sole repositories of all knowledge in the world, and God is the universe, God is all truth. Thus the jungle medicine men, the meditating monks, and religions were at one time the closest anyone could get to God. It is when religions teach known false beliefs, as revealed to us by God with the passage of time, and use them to gain political power, economic rewards, and control over people instead of searching for God, that they depart from God and become political organizations designed to reward the purveyors of those religions. Why do some buddhist funerals last so long, sometimes over 40 days? Because the monks are paid by the day! This contract may not be spelled out explicitly, but is certainly "understood" by all participants. Of course, every religion is a human creation, as it should and can only be (God is far above our feeble attempts) – the only question you can ask is how close each is to God.

Finally, if the bible is such an accurate historical record, what about the resurrection? How

much of it is historically true? The account of his grave being closed and later found open in spite of the presence of Roman guards is probably true, and indicates an attempt by the Romans to remove the body and dispose of it in such a way that it cannot be found. After his death, Jesus appeared personally to only a few people, according to the bible, so those accounts are not independently verifiable. There are accounts of him appearing to large crowds of people, but such events are easily staged. Thus the resurrection, as told in the bible, left no evidence that it actually occurred. Instead, the most likely possibility is that the romans closed the grave so that nobody could steal the body to create a martyr's shrine, then placed guards to protect it until hired Roman workers were sent to open the grave, remove the body, and dispose of it in such a way that it could not be identified as Jesus. This theory is perfectly consistent with the bible and predicts that Jesus's body will never be found, a prediction probably known to authors of the resurrection and ascension (assumption). If you know that the body will never be found, the ascension can never be disproved. The Romans were great politicians but the Christians had the last laugh! Another proof that the word is mightier than the sword.

Thus the Bible provides us with a very believable history of events that created a God.

What I don't know is what happened to Mary's body. Some of the disciples claimed her ascension, indicating that there was good reason to believe that there are no burial remains. She lived for many years after Jesus's death and the accounts of her ascension do not indicate any specifics as to location, occasion, or time. There must be many persons today who are blood relatives of Jesus, especially because some of Jesus's disciples were members of his family and Mary had about five children. Instead of trying to find Jesus's body, it may be more fruitful to look for his descendants.

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