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Journal: The Qur’an

 I did not know a whole lot about the Qur’an before reading it, except a few basic ideas. I knew that it was the central religious text of Islam, and I also knew that it was believed to be God’s words spoken to Mohamed through an angel. It came as somewhat of a surprise to me when I realized how little I knew about the Islamic religion because throughout my years I have spent a portion of my time researching all sorts of different beliefs. While I have never actually read the Qur’an, I have recently been interested in learning more about it. I was genuinely excited to begin reading it, and as soon as I started I found some intriguing details.

 One topic that seems a little odd to me in the Qur’an is when the text addresses those who do not have faith or a belief in Allah. I found this interesting because the Qur’an makes it seem as if those people with no faith have been deceived and Allah has no sympathy for them, instead he has cursed them or made their deception worsen. There are a few lines in the text that can help me describe this better, one of them reads, “Allah hath set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and o their eyes is a veil; great is the penalty they (incur).” Another line, when on the topic of those with no belief in Allah, reads, “In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease: And grievous is the penalty they (incur), because they are false (to themselves).” I could be comprehending this different than others, but to me it seems like Allah strikes those who don’t believe in him from the beginning, eliminating the idea of second chances or repentance. In comparison to other religions, most faiths with a belief in a God also believe there is a Satan, or another adversary force. Those religions claim that deception and negativity are under Satan’s influence, while God loves all and is always forgiving. I am not quite sure yet about what Muslims believe about an adversary force to Allah, but I’m sure I will find out.

 In Surah 7 The Heights, I read about Iblis; the Islamic devil. I chose to write about this part because it was entertaining for me to read. I learned that Iblis is a Jinn who was cast out of Allah’s presence and was ‘filled with hell’ because he refused to bow to mankind. When Allah asked what prevented him from bowing down when commanded Iblis’s response was this, “I am better than he: Thou didst create me from fire, and him from clay.” After reading about Iblis rejecting God, the Qur’an goes on to tell more about the beginning of humans on earth by telling the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The surprising part about all of this is how distinctly similar it all is to religions I am more familiar with, especially my own.

 The last thing that really surprised me was line 35 in Surah 21. The Prophets. It says, “Every soul shall have a taste of death: and We test you by evil and by good by way of trial to Us must ye return.” I wanted to make note of this because it is more evidence as to how similar world religions are without even realizing it. My own religion believes life on earth is a test/trial in which you are tested by evil and judged in the end to determine whether or not you are worthy of returning to God’s Kingdom. I have enjoyed reading the Qur’an and learning about its teachings.