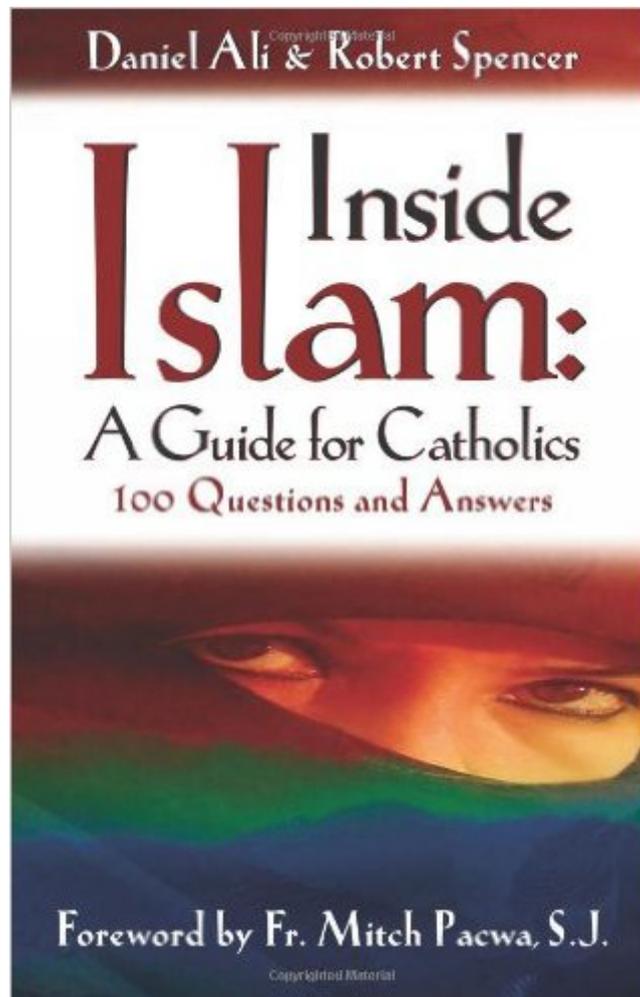


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# Inside Islam: A Guide For Catholics: 100 Questions And Answers



## Synopsis

Islam. For some, the word is frightening; for others, mysterious. For all, it is a religious force that cannot be ignored. Now here's a question-and-answer book on Islam written specifically for Catholics. Inside Islam addresses Islam's controversial teachings on God, jihad, the role of women, and more.

## Book Information

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People tend to assume that all religions are basically the same. If you stop and think though, it often seems rather that different cults exist at different points along a spectrum extending from very benign, to very destructive, with countless points in between. Therefore, although people rarely want to think about the distinct 'textures' of distinct religions, it can be important to do so, especially in the case of a religion that until recently had little presence in the West and is now growing rapidly through conversions, immigration, and reproduction. Such is the case with Islam. Bernard Lewis, the famous scholar of Islamic history, has said that Europe will be Islamic by the end of the century. And Islam is growing rapidly in the U.S. too. Since human rights organizations report that some 51 of the world's 53 Muslim-majority countries are currently NOT democracies that protect freedom of the press and other civil rights Westerners take for granted, it seems necessary to ask: 1. Will Islam, as it grows in the West, tend to chill or threaten civil liberties increasingly? 2. And if in some decades, a Muslim-majority should arise in a Western country, what is the likelihood that freedom and democracy will be replaced by Sharia? 3. Exactly how resistant to democracy is Islam in its core beliefs and examples? 4. Is the lack of democracy in Muslim-majority countries primarily a result of

temporary historical factors having little to do with Islam?5. Since mere debate of the previous questions is highly unlikely to lead to a consensus among experts, should not Western countries subscribe to the following prudent, pragmatic principle?

After Sept. 11, Robert Spencer's book, "Islam Unveiled," became very popular. As a Catholic, I was hesitant to read a book that I feared would take Koranic passages out of context and then present them as proof of Islam's falsity (precisely because this is what many people do to Christianity). A friend lent me this book, however, and assured me that it wasn't agenda-driven or unreasonable. I noticed that the co-author, Daniel Ali, is a former Muslim, so I decided to give it a shot and I'm so glad that I did. (I learned more about Islam from this book than I did from my religious studies class!) Given Islam's rising popularity and rapid expansion into Western society, we cannot afford to ignore Islam's claim to be God's final revelation. Despite our best intentions of tolerance among all religions, we cannot be closed-minded to the possibility that a religion might proclaim untruth -- or even injustice. "Inside Islam," which contrasts Islam's claims with those of Christianity, is a must-read for all Christians, and Catholics in particular. Utilizing a highly readable question-and-answer format, the authors draw from a huge base of knowledge of Islamic theology, scholarship and tradition to demonstrate that Islam cannot be what it claims to be. Extensive endnotes provide the reader with the opportunity to cross-examine sources. You will read how Mohammad's exposure to Christian heresies distorted his view of Christianity and how these misinterpretations have been incorporated into the Koran -- and how they still inform Muslim views of Christians as idolators to this day. (Mohammad, for example, apparently thought that the Trinity was a union of God, Mary, and Jesus -- and that God had sexual relations with Mary in order to conceive a son.

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