

Jean-Yves Brefo
History of Christianity
Assignment 5-3-1 - Week 6

Questions

1. What does Donner state in the article "Islam's origins?"
2. Why does the Quran use the word "Muslim?"
3. What do the Muslims believe about the Koran?
4. What is Christoph Luxenberg's argument?
5. What are the two possibilities that Ms Crone believed are the reasons the monotheistic stories and ideas found their way into Koran?

Answers

1. That Islam included Jews and Jews at the time believing Muhammad to be a prophet didn't conflict with the torah.
2. To connote a monotheist rather than a follower of Muhammad
3. That the Koran is the very word of God, who spoke through the Angel Gabriel to Muhammad.
4. That the Koran has been misread and mistranslated for centuries, that parts of Islam's book is derived from pre-existing Christian Aramaic text that were later misinterpreted by Islamic scholars, who prepared the edition of the Koran which is read today.
5. That either there were a good number of Jews and Christians in Mecca or that the Koran had to be written or composed somewhere else.

Terms

Nomads - a member of people who have no fixed residence but move place to place usually seasonally and within a well-defined territory.

Koran - the book composed of sacred writings accepted by the Islamic faith as revelations made to Muhammad by Allah through the angel Gabriel.

Summary

What the Islam faith and tradition and what the Muslims believe the Koran is. The different studies done of the origin of the Koran. Who Muhammad was perceived to be. The history of the interpretation of the Koran by university scholars. What scholars believe the Koran consists of.