

My father threw a shoe at me and told me to get out. Before I reached the door, he grabbed me and started trying to talk me back into accepting Islam. My dad and sister sat on either side of me and preached to me for what seemed like forever. Finally they stopped and let me go to bed.

I had been attending two different churches during that time. When my father found out, he threatened to sue them. So both churches asked me to honor my father and not return. I didn't know what to do and I felt so empty and all alone. Eventually my father kicked me out of our home.

So I went to live with my mother. She let me read the Bible and go to church. As I began to grow in the Lord, I realized that although I had had an amazing conversion experience, I was still thinking like a Muslim. I failed so many times to live up to what I felt I should be as a Christian. I felt so unworthy.

Around Father's Day, I was watching a TV program and began to cry when I realized that my father was not my hero. I couldn't stop the tears. And then the Holy Spirit came to me and whispered, "You can call me Dad now." I was shocked when I heard those words. Although I had been told that I had been adopted into the family of God as a believer, I never really understood what that meant until then. I also understood that it was not just a matter of changing my religion, but that I had been in the kingdom of Satan and was now adopted into the family of God. I had been dead and had now come to life. I learned that I didn't have to be afraid of God leaving me. I learned that the relationship between a Father and a son is much stronger than that between a servant and his master, which is the way I always felt under Islam.

If a servant fails to keep his master's orders, he is fired or rejected from his service. I was always afraid that Allah would reject me. But now as a son of the living God I am a permanent member of His family and household. I have a new confidence in my relationship with Jesus.

- Ali Abdel Masih

"Now I say that an heir, as long as he is a child, differs nothing from a servant though he be lord of all, but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so, (Ali), when he was a child, was in bondage under the elements of this world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the Law to redeem (Ali), who was under the law, that (Ali) might receive the adoption of a son. And because (Ali) is a son, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son unto (Ali's) heart, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore, (Ali) is no more a servant but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." - Galatians 4:1-7

This true story was written by Ali Abdel Masih, author of
"Out of Darkness into Light"

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