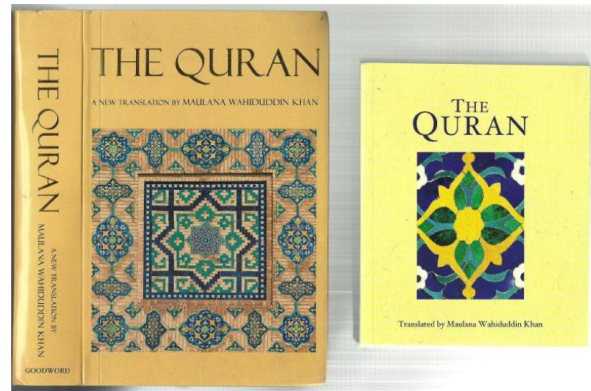


# Study of the Word, “Mu-ta-waf-fi-ka”

For any practitioner of using the Al-Imran 3:54-55 as a bridge to sharing the Gospel with Muslims, it is vital to understand the true meaning of the word, “Mutawaffika”. Many Muslims will do their best to cover up and misdirect from the true meaning of this word.

A prime example of this cover up is found in the first and second editions of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan’s English translation of the Qur’an. In the first edition (left), he translated the word, “Mutawaffika” correctly. In his second edition (right), he translated it incorrectly. When asked why he made this change, the Maulana replied, “I was pressured to make the change.”



some of what was forbidden to you and I come to you with a sign from your Lord. So fear God and obey me. <sup>51</sup> God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path.”

<sup>52</sup> When Jesus perceived their denial, he said, ‘Who will be my helpers in God’s cause?’ The disciples said, ‘We are God’s helpers, we believe in God. Bear witness that we have surrendered ourselves. <sup>53</sup> Our Lord, we believe in what You have sent down and we follow the messenger, so count us among those who bear witness.’

<sup>54</sup> And they schemed but God also schemed and God is the Best of Schemers. <sup>55</sup> God said, ‘O Jesus, I shall cause you to die and will raise you up to Me and shall clear you [of the calumnies] of the disbelievers, and shall place those who follow you above those who deny the truth, until the Day of Judgement; then to Me shall all return and I will judge between you regarding your disputes.

<sup>56</sup> Those who deny the truth shall be sternly punished in this world and in the world to come: there shall be none to help them.’ <sup>57</sup> As for those who have believed and do good works, they shall be given their reward in full. God does not love evil-doers. <sup>58</sup> This which We recite to you is a revelation and a wise reminder.

<sup>59</sup> Jesus in the sight of God is like Adam. He created him from dust; then said to him, ‘Be!’ and he was. <sup>60</sup> This is the truth from your Lord, so do not be among the doubters. <sup>61</sup> And if anyone should argue with you about this [truth] after the knowledge you have received, say to them, ‘Come! Let us gather our sons and your sons, our women and your women, and ourselves and yourselves; and then let us pray earnestly and invoke the curse of God upon the liars. <sup>62</sup> This is the true account. There is no deity save Him. God is Mighty and Wise.’

<sup>63</sup> And if they turn away, God knows well the evil-doers.

none of them... if they... submit... disputes... were... truly... and... who... This... You... they... them... and... when... other... ‘O... good... this... world... of those... God... men in... man... zealous... can I... has... replied... what He... thing He... it is... in the... in the

Torah and in the Gospel. <sup>59</sup> He will make him a messenger to the Children of Israel. He will say: ‘I have come to you with a sign from your Lord. I will make the shape of a bird out of clay for you and then breathe into it and, by God’s leave, it will become a living bird. And by God’s leave I will heal the blind and the leper and bring the dead to life. I will tell you what you eat and what you store up in your homes. Surely in this there is a sign for you, if you are believers. <sup>60</sup> I come to fulfill [the prediction] of the Torah which preceded me and to make lawful for you some of what was forbidden to you and I come to you with a sign from your Lord. So fear God and obey me. <sup>61</sup> God is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path.”

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The Arabic correct translation of the word “Mutawaffika” found in the Qur’an in Surah Al-Imran 3:55 has been debated by scholars. The significance of the outcome of the debate is important to both sides. Those who do not want Isa to die contend that “Mutawaffika” refers to Isa’s second trip to the earth. On this trip, Isa will die. Others argue that “Mutawaffika” in 3:55 cannot be translated as “to cause to die” simply because they do not believe that he died.

This paper pulls together information from multiple Islamic scholars and sources who argue that Isa died. They contend that if Isa died and was raised alive to Allah, then it should not be seen as a threat to any prophets and their writings. The fact that Isa died was foretold by previous prophets and reveals to us Allah’s divine plan (Quran, Al-Imran 3:54) of substituting Isa in our place. Our punishment of eternity in hell was placed upon a substitute, Isa. Allah performed Korbani Himself and used Holy Isa as the sacrifice.

Let’s examine arguments in favor of “Mutawaffika” being translated as “to cause to die” or “to kill.”

Surah Al-Imran 3:55 (Arabic pronunciation)

3:55 “Iz qa\_lalla\_hu ya\_ ‘isa\_ inni mutawaffi ka wa ra\_ti’uka ilayya wa mutahhiruka minal lazina kafaru\_ wa ja\_’ilul lazinnataba’u\_ka fauqal lazina kafaru\_ ila\_ yaumil qia mah(ti), summa ilayya marji’ukum fa ahkumu bainakum fima kuntum fihi takhtalifu\_n(a).”

Arabic translations in English (from [www.quranbrowser.com](http://www.quranbrowser.com)). The Arabic Mutawaffika’s translation into English is underlined.

[Pickthall](#) (And remember) when Allah said: O Jesus! Lo! I am gathering thee and causing thee to ascend unto Me,

[Yusuf Ali](#) Behold! God said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself

[Shakir](#) And when Allah said: O Isa, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me

[Sher Ali](#) Remember the time when ALLAH said' `O Jesus, I will cause thee to die a natural death and will raise thee to Myself,

[Khalifa](#) Thus, GOD said, "O Jesus, I am terminating your life, raising you to Me,

[Arberry](#) When God said, 'Jesus, I will take thee to Me and will raise thee to Me

[Palmer](#) When God said, 'O Jesus! I will make Thee die and take Thee up again to me

[Rodwell](#) Remember when God said, "O Jesus! verily I will cause thee to die, and will take thee up to myself

[Sale](#)When God said, o Jesus, verily I will cause thee to die, and I will take thee up unto me,

by Nadeem Quraishi

**Interpretation of the word ‘wafat’:** The key word here is "wafat" . The most correct meaning of "wafat" is death, or take away soul. If soul is taken away from a person, it is nothing but death. The problem arises with regards to this verse, when Muslims refuse to interpret the meaning of "wafat" as death. Irony is that all scholars who translated the Holy Quran do agree "wafat" means death. **Each and every scholar translated the word "wafat" as death in at least 20 different instances** in their translations. However, in this particular verse, they interpreted the meaning as ‘take away’ and insinuate physical ascension. These translators did not hesitate to twist the actual meaning of the word of Allah to support Christian faith and to some extent weak Hadith narrated by Wahab bin Munnabba, Kab Akbar and one isolated Hadith by Abu Hurairaa.