

**Regarding: Turkish Matthew Translation, “kitbın adı incil-i şerif” in yüce anlamı havari matta’nın kaleminden”**

**To: The creators of the Turkish Islamicised Matthew Translation**

As a Turkish pastor in Izmir Turkey, a graduate of Westminster Seminary, a trained philologist and linguist, and a graduate of Aegean University, I am a highly-qualified translator, and am currently working on ‘the essentially literal’ Turkish translation of the Hebrew Masoretic Bible.

We are not questioning the footnotes in the ‘translation’ or your Turkish in your interlinear. We are challenging the islamicised Matthew. Your argument is ‘Proof by contradiction’ (reductio ad absurdum), but you defeat your own argument by your own translation. We are not questioning your Turkish-Greek interlinear. We –Turks- are questioning the Turkish translation.

You state that you ‘*did the interlinear*’ with the new Turkish translation of Matthew. You move on to explain the Greek interpretation of the Turkish words: ‘*Mevlam*’ and ‘*Allah’in Vekili*.’ Sadly, your translation reveals a poor command of the Turkish language.

For instance...

If you want the Turkish to really mean ‘πατερα μου - My Father’ you wouldn’t use ‘Mevlam’. However if, like Muslims, you already have a problem with the words ‘My Father’ the word Mevla would do the trick. But it does not mean ‘πατερα μου - My Father.’

The word ‘MEVLA’ is mentioned in the Quran like this:

النَّصِيرُ وَنِعْمَ مَوْلَىٰ أَلْ نِعْمَ كُمْ مَوْلَا ۗ اللَّهُ أَنْ فَاعْلَمُوا تَوَلَّوْا وَإِنْ

"And if they turn away, then know that Allah is **your protector, an excellent protector, and an excellent helper!**" (Turkish: **Bilin ki Allah sizin mevlânızdır (sahibiniz, hâminiz, yardımcınızdır). O, ne güzel Mevlâ ve ne güzel yardımcıdır**" (Enfâl, 40).

In this verse Mevla is rendered as 'Protector' and 'Helper', not as 'My Father'.

Here is another verse from the Quran:

لَهُمْ مَوْلَىٰ لَا الْكَافِرِينَ وَأَنْ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ مَوْلَىٰ اللَّهُ بِأَنَّ ذَلِكَ

"That is because Allah is **the Protector** of those who believe, but those who reject Allah have no **protector**." (Turkish: "**Öyle, çünkü Allah iman edenlerin mevlâsıdır, kâfirlere gelince onlar için mevlâ yoktur.**") (Muhammed, 11)

Muslims don't perceive the word 'Mevla' as Father, but a protector! If you suggest that **مَوْلَى (Mevla)** may mean Father, they will respond saying 'May it **NEVER** be'!!! Mevla means protector and helper!

You also mention that 'Son of God' is translated as 'Allah'in Vekili' which actually means 'Allah's Representative'!!! 'θεου υιος' does not mean 'Allah's Representative' but it clearly means 'The Son of God'... If you wish you can translate it as 'Tanrı'nın Oğlu' or 'Allah'in Oğlu'. But if you are a Muslim who claims that the Bible is a corrupt book, that the Greek is corrupt, then you can translate 'θεου υιος' to mean 'Allah'in Halefi' or 'Allah'in Vekili.' For a Muslim would translate only according to preconcieved impossibilities: seeing as it's impossible for God to have a son, it must mean something other than the typical or actual use of this Greek word.

I agree with late Thomas Cosmades when he wrote about this so called Muslim-friendly translation: "*In the plethora of footnotes, unimaginable gimmicks are employed to give the impression that all these explanations are requisite to support the paraphrase of the text.*"

This translation is 'an all-American idea' with absolutely no respect for the 'sacredness' of Scripture, or even of the growing Turkish church of former Muslims.

We have some road-side restaurants on the Aegean coast here with signs saying: ‘Kendin Pişir, Kendin Ye’ (Cook It Yourself, Eat It Yourself) which are ‘do-it-yourself-barbeque’ restaurants. Your translation shows that you believe that Christians have the right to similar ‘do it yourself’ smorgasbord translations. Your translation reflects both your poor view of the sacredness of Scripture and an inflated view of the liberties you are ‘allowed’ to make, as you change the inspired Word of God to fit your questionable agenda.

But this makes sense, considering all the translations there are in America floating around catering to this and that group, dummifying down the Bible because God did not know how to make it understandable in the first place.

You Westerners fail to trust God and you want results...and you want it now! By islamising the Bible you hope that your trap will catch some Muslims, but it only satisfies your needs. It does not help the Muslims see that Jesus is the only way to God. Imagine how Muslims will feel when they find out that this translation is nothing but a lie. In the end, it causes them to lose all trust in Scripture.

The Turkish church sees this translation as ‘An American Bible in Muslim Language.’ There are many more deceptions in this translation. I am only responding to the words mentioned in the email. I have read the Muslim friendly Turkish translation, and since I believe that it is heretical, I subsequently warned my Christian and Muslim friends against this deceptive translation. This translation is not just an honest mistake, but a methodical deception about the unambiguous Truths taught in the Scriptures.

Are you proficient in the Turkish language? One of the supporters of the translation writes “*Nothing has been "removed" from the Turkish translation. God's Word was translated faithfully.*” Absurd. Since you are so confident in your translation, I challenge them to bring the Muslim Matthew translation and a Greek NT and publicly debate with me in front of both Muslims and Christians.

We challenge you to return to the faith of our Fathers, our Fathers who feared the curse in Revelation 22:19: “And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.” God’s Word is mighty and powerful to save. We do not need to be ashamed of the claims of Christ. The stumbling stones that a Muslim must get over to come

to Christ make his faith-muscles strong for his new life in Christ. God is able to get him over them. He got us over them. Maybe, because we Turks come from a Muslim perspective we are more able to understand this than you.

I join the accusations in this petition and support it. You should join us too. This is not slander for any individual or institution, but against this false and deceptive translation. I will use your last sentence in your email: This translation is *a sin against the body of Christ*.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

Rev. Fikret Böcek

Izmir, Turkey

*The Protestant Church of Smyrna*