The late Pope John Paul's kissing the Qur'an was met with a lot of suspicion and criticism, even from within the Roman Catholic Church itself. There is absolutely nothing in the Bible, or even in Roman Catholic theology itself, that justifies such a gesture. However, there is in Freemasonry! In Albert Pike's book, *Morals and Dogmas,* we read:

> The Bible is an indispensable part of the furniture of a Christian Lodge, only because it is the sacred book of the Christian religion. The Hebrew Pentateuch in a Hebrew Lodge, and the Koran in a Mohammedan one, belong on the Altar; and one of these, and the Square and Compass, properly understood, are the Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work.

Notice the words, "one of these," meaning that only one of these three books is the true guide for any Mason. But to which of these three books is he referring?

In addition to the 33 Degree, there is one other called the *Shrine* (A.A.O.N.M.S., *Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine*), and this is the highest and last level one can reach in Freemasonry.

For clarification, there are 32 Scottish Rite Degrees and one honorary 33 Degree conferred for service to Freemasonry. Only Masons of this level may join the Shrine. Obviously, the Shrine is in the name of Allah, and the only book on the altar by which Masons must be guided is the Qur'an!

Let me also remind you that the late Pope Francis continually declared the Bible and the Qur'an to be the same thing and that Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists etc., are all "children of God." He also said that Christians should not try to convert people of other faiths, and that those who say Jesus is the only way to God are fundamentalists.

Dear reader, here we have dealt with the inner circle of these two great religions. However, when dealing with their faithful followers, it is very important for anyone who defines himself Christian to remember the New Testament principle that toleration does not constitute validation.