



What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters Garry Wills, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of History, Northwestern University
Pulitzer Prize winning author of nearly 40 books, including *What Jesus Meant* and *Why I Am a Catholic*.

Interviewer: Chaplain Tahera Ahmad

Associate University Chaplain and Director of Interfaith Engagement, Northwestern University

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:00 PM

Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,
in partnership with MCC Academy and the New Trier Multifaith Alliance.

This event is free and open to the public and will be videotaped. Suitable for youth 12+.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Garry Wills, Ph.D.

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Thursday, October 12, 2017, *What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters*, 7:00 PM, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 60201. Malcolm Gladwell has called the Pulitzer-Prize winning historian, writer, and journalist Garry Wills, Ph.D. "one of the great political writers of his time." With his New York Times bestselling classics *What Jesus Meant*, *Why I Am a Catholic*, and *Why Priests?*, Prof. Wills has established himself as an authority on religion, American politics, and how they intersect. Now, after a lifetime spent thinking and writing about Christianity, Wills takes on one his greatest intellectual challenges yet in *What the Qur'an Meant: And Why It Matters*.

The Qur'an is sacred to roughly 1.6 billion people. For Americans, understanding the Islamic faith has never been more important than it is now. *What the Qur'an Meant* offers Christian and non-Muslim readers the opportunity to expand their understanding of Islam through direct analysis of the text. Prof. Wills expertly contextualizes the Qur'an, comparing it with other sacred books that may be more familiar to non-Muslim readers, including the Old Testament and New Testament.

Prof. Wills, **Emeritus Professor of History** at **Northwestern University**, opens an interfaith dialogue just as he examines how the Qur'an has been misinterpreted and exploited: by politicians and pundits, by persons of other faiths unfamiliar with the basic facts of Islam, and by fearful persons who seek to prove that Islam is a religion of violence. As the country's leading Catholic scholar, Prof. Wills intimately knows the ignorance of many Christians about Islam and the Qur'an. He felt compelled both personally and professionally to read the Qur'an in order to better understand the world around him.

Prof. Wills will be interviewed on stage by **Chaplain Tahera Ahmad**, **Associate University Chaplain** and **Director of Interfaith Engagement** at **Northwestern University**. She currently serves on as a trustee on the **Parliament of the World's Religions** and on the first **American Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council**. In 2014, Chaplain Ahmad became the first woman to represent the United States at the **International Quran Competition** in Indonesia where she placed 6th place in the world.

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