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## Cat Stevens, Former Pop star, UK (part 1 of 2)

**Description:** One of the most prominent musical figures of the 70's and his se

Part 1: Life as a musician.

By Cat Stevens

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All I have to say is all what you know already, to confirm what you

already know, the message of the Prophet [may the mercy and blessings of God be upon him] as given by God - the Religion of Truth. As human beings we are given a consciousness and a duty that has placed us at the top of creation... It is important to realize the obligation to rid ourselves of all illusions and to make our lives a preparation for the next life. Anybody who misses this chance is not likely to be given another,

to be brought back again and again, because it says in the Glorious Quran that when chance. The Lord will say, 'If I send you back you will do the same."

### My Early Religious Upbringing

I was brought up in the modern world of all the luxury and the high life of show

business. I was born in a Christian home, but we know that every child is born in his this religion (Christianity) and thought this way. I was taught that God exists, but ther he was in fact the door to God. This was more or less accepted by me, but I did not s I looked at some of the statues of Jesus; they were just stones with no life. And when they said that God is three, I was puzzled even more but could not argue. I more or le believed it, because I had to have respect for the faith of my parents.

### Pop Star

Gradually I became alienated from this religious upbringing. I started making music.

I wanted to be a big star. All those things I saw in the films and on the media took hold of me. I wanted to be like my uncle who had a beautiful car. "Well, I said, "he has it made. He has a lot of money." I wanted to be like God.

I decided then that this was the life for me; to make a lot of money, have a 'great life.'

Now my examples were the pop stars. I started making songs, but deep down I had a desire to make something that would last. In the Quran, we make a promise, but when we make something, we want to hold onto it.

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become greedy.)

So what happened was that I became very famous. I was still a teenager, my name

and photo were splashed in all the media. They made me larger than life, so I wanted to be intoxicated (with liquor and drugs).

## In Hospital

After a year of financial success and 'high' living, I became very ill, contracted TB and had to be hospitalized. It was then that I started to think: What was to happen to me? Was I just a body, and my goal in life was merely to satisfy this body? I realized now this calamity was a blessing given to me by God, a chance to open my eyes - "Why am I here? Why am I in bed?" - and I started looking for some answers. There was great interest in the E...

began to become aware of was death, and that the soul moves on; it does not stop. I accomplished. I started meditating and even became a vegetarian. I now believed trend. But what I did believe in particular was that I was not just a body. This aware-

One day when I was walking, and I was caught in the rain, I began running to the shelter. 'The rain is getting wet, my body is telling me I am getting wet.' This made me think of a saying that I heard: 'The donkey will lead you where it has to go. Otherwise, the donkey will lead you where it wants to go.'

Then I realized I had a will, a

by the new terminology I was learning in the Eastern religion. By now, I was fed up with the world and was not attached to it. I started reflecting my own thoughts. I remember the lyric of one of my songs. It makes the Heaven, what makes the Hell. Do I get to know You in my bed or some place else? I was on the Path.

I also wrote another song, "The Way to Find God Out." I became even more famous in

the world of music. I really had a difficult time because I was getting rich and famous but I was not attached to the world. Then I came to a stage where I decided that Buddhism is all right and noble, but I was not attached to the world and was not prepared to become a monk and to isolate myself from the world.

I tried Zen and Ching, numerology, tarot cards and astrology. I tried to look back into

the Bible and could not find any

and then, what I regarded as a miracle occurred. My brother had visited the mosque in the same town. On the one hand it throbbed with life (unlike the churches and synagogues which were empty), on the other hand tranquility prevailed.

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search for the truth.

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man is brought to account, he will say, "O Lord, send us back and give us another

original nature - it is only his parents that turn him to this or that religion. I was given  
e was no direct contact with God, so we had to make contact with Him through Jesus -  
wallow it all.

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Id of me, and perhaps I thought this was my God, the goal of making money. I had an  
The people around me influenced me to think that this was it; this world was their

a feeling for humanity, a feeling that if I became rich I would help the needy. (It says  
to it and

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d to live larger than life, and the only way to do that

I  
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that  
im I  
of the answers. At that time,  
Eastern mysticism. I began reading, and the first thing I

I felt I was taking the road to bliss and high  
in 'peace and flower power,' and this was the general  
ess came to me at the hospital.

alter and then I realized, 'Wait a minute, my body is  
that the body is like a donkey, and it has to be trained

God-given gift: follow the will of God. I was fascinated

with Christianity. I started making music again, and this  
goes like this: "I wish I knew, I wish I knew what  
is in the dusty cell while others reach the big hotel?" and I knew I

in

, and at the same time, I was sincerely searching for  
e, but I was not ready to leave the world. I was too  
from society.

thing. At this time I did not know anything about Islam,

in Jerusalem and was greatly impressed that while on  
empty), on the other hand, an atmosphere of peace and

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