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# Chrislam

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*This article is about the real religion. For the fictional religion of the same name, see [The Hammer of God](#).*

**Chrislam** (pronounced /ˈkrɪˈslɑːm/), or **The Will of God Mission** or **Ifeoluwa Mission** (Ifeoluwa is a [Yoruba](#) word meaning "God's Love"), is a Nigerian [syncretic](#) religion which mixes elements of both [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#).

Founded by [Tela Tella](#) in the 1980s, the sect predominantly exists in [Lagos, Nigeria](#). Its followers recognise both the [Bible](#) and the [Qur'an](#) as holy texts, and practice "running deliverance," a distinctive practice of spiritual running which members liken to [Joshua's](#) army that took [Jericho](#), or the Muslim practice of walking around the [Ka'aba](#).

Chrislam goes by many different names including: **The True Message of God Mission**,<sup>[1]</sup> **The Will of God Mission**, **Ifeoluwa Mission**, which means **God's Love** in Yoruba<sup>[2]</sup> and **Oke-Tude** which means **The Mountain of Loosing Bondage** in Yoruba. Chrislam is the blend between [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#). This religion is mostly popular in [Lagos, Nigeria](#) where it was founded.<sup>[3]</sup> In [Africa](#) today there are about 1,500 people who practice Chrislam, and the number is growing every day.<sup>[3]</sup>

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## History

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There are two different religious movements of Chrislam in [Nigeria](#). One religious movement is called **Ifeoluwa** and was founded by a man named Tela Tella in the 1980s. Tela Tella claims that an angel of God came to him and told him that he gave him the mission and the name **Ifeoluwa: The Will of God Mission**.<sup>[4]</sup> The other religious movement of Chrislam was founded by a man named Prophet (Dr.) Samson Saka in 1999.<sup>[5]</sup> After making a pilgrimage to [Mecca](#), Saka claims that he was inspired by [God](#), to make peace between [Christians](#) and [Muslims](#).<sup>[3]</sup> He founded the religion in the hope that it would create peace for the people of [Lagos](#), because [Christians](#) and [Muslims](#) were having religious feuds. Chrislam was created to create religious tolerance between the [Christians](#) and [Muslims](#). When Chrislam was first founded it was called Chrislam-herb because Prophet Saka was an herbalist at that time and medicine and herbal healing were a big part of the religion. Prophet Saka says that he had to change the name from Chrislam-herb to **Oke-Tude: Mountain of Loosing Bondage** because the government wouldn't let him register the name Chrislamherb.<sup>[6]</sup> Apart from its name, Oke-Tude is identical to Chrislam. Saka and Tela Tella claim they do not know each other but Tela Tella says that Saka stole his idea for the religion. Saka wants to conquer the world in the name of Chrislam, but Tela Tella is just the opposite, waiting for the world to be ready to accept his religion. Even though Ifeoluwa is the older religious movement, it is smaller than Oke-Tude because Tela doesn't emphasize evangelism as much as Saka.

## Beliefs/Worship

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Chrislam uses both the [Bible](#) and [Qur'an](#) and sees them both as holy texts. During the worship service, verses are read from both the [Bible](#) and the [Qur'an](#). According to Ebenezer Edohasim, a man who worshipped with the Chrislamic people, there was no friction between the two religions and both texts were accepted by the congregation as true. The people of the congregation are also free to shout out to [Allah](#) or [God](#) in worship. The Chrislamic people believe that [Muhammad](#), [Moses](#), and [Jesus](#) were all great prophets and we need to love them all.<sup>[4]</sup> Worship services include singing of [Christian](#) and [Islamic](#) hymns to praise God and attract his presence.<sup>[5]</sup> During the times of [Christmas](#), [Easter](#), [Ramadan](#), and other [Christian](#) and [Islamic](#) religions celebrations, both are accepted and celebrated without judgment or hostility. Inside their place of worship there is an altar similar to those built by [Abraham](#) where the worshippers pray and seek the face of God. There are prayers going on here most of the day.<sup>[5]</sup> Like other religions they believe in evangelism and try to convert new members every day. In the Oke-Tude organization of Chrislam there are three different sessions or services that take place on Sunday. The first is a [Muslim](#) session, then there is a [Christian](#) session, and finally there is a joint session that Saka leads. During this he stresses the similarities between Christianity and Islamic beliefs.<sup>[4]</sup> In the other organization of Ifeoluwa, they worship on Saturday because when they worshipped on Sunday the congregation claimed that Tela Tella was showing favoritism since Christians worship on Sundays and Muslims worship on Fridays. The worship sessions on Saturday are held three times a day. Tela Tella believes in both the [Qur'an](#) and the [Bible](#) but says they are incomplete, and that is why he is writing his own book called the "Ifeoluwa Book".<sup>[4]</sup> In Ifeoluwa there is an to annual pilgrimage to The Mount of Authority, where the people pray for three days, and other annual festivals put on by Tela Tella. Tella also leads the singing of hymns during the Saturday service. Tella claims that these hymns were revealed to him by angels [Gabriel](#) and [Michael](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

## Criticisms of Chrislam

[\[edit\]](#)

Many people criticize this new religion because [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#) are different, and it is hard to understand how these two religions can become one. On the other hand, some say [Islam](#) originated as a Christian [heresy](#) and so there are many similarities between the two religions. According to Stephen Ellis, who wrote the book, *Movers and Shakers: Social Movements in Africa, the fusion of Christianity and Islam* is "rather exceptional and increasingly so." According to Sidney M. Greenfield, who wrote the book, *Reinventing Religions: Syncretism and Transformation in Africa and the Americas*, Chrislam is a logical product of the [Yoruba people](#) because they want to be able to work out their own destiny. Because the people of [Nigeria](#) are struggling in all areas of life and Chrislam offers miracles and deliverance they see this as a good spiritual way to help them get through every day living. Others disagree with the religion because of the fact that [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#) are such different religions with different beliefs.<sup>[4]</sup> The people who practice Chrislam see no fault with mixing the two religions, because they say that God loves all people and wants us to love all people. Prophet Saka says that when people criticize Chrislam he takes solace in what his Lord [Jesus](#) Christ says about loving others in all religions.<sup>[5]</sup> Ifeoluwa seems to have fewer followers than Oke-Tude because Ifeoluwa has very strict regulations, that Tella calls commandments. These commandments deal with behavior, morality, discipline, how to dress, what and what not to eat and how to eat it, and

commandments. These commandments deal with behavior, morality, discipline, how to dress, what and what not to eat and how to eat it, and hygiene and purity. Tella says that these commandments were given to him when he was on the Mount of Authority.<sup>[4]</sup>

See also [edit]

- Christianity
- Islam
- Arthur C. Clarke mentions a fictional religion called Chrislam in his science fiction novels.
- Bible
- Qur'an
- Muslim Holidays

External links [edit]

- Chrislam
- Christian Science Monitor article
- Lebanese Islamic-Christian National Dialogue Committee dubbed "Chrislam"

- ↑ [1], additional text
- ↑ [2], additional text
- ↑ *a b c* [3], additional text
- ↑ *a b c d e f g* [4], additional text
- ↑ *a b c d* [5], additional text
- ↑ [oketude.org], additional text

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