

THE Simplest Guide to ISLAM

Understand Islam in  Minutes



2nd Edition

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Understand Islam in  Minutes

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful,
the Most Gracious

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Foreword

All praise be to Allah the Lord of the universe and all beings. He created man in the best stature and made him able to hear, see and think. He made him a successor in the earth and entrusted him to build the earth and not to cause any mischief in it. Accordingly, man should worship God and establish His religion (Law) on the earth. Our Creator Commandments are clear. They command people to do good deeds and refrain from all types of bad deeds and abominations.

Our Creator made our lives on earth short and temporary. Life on earth is a bridge to the eternal life in the Hereafter. That is the Day of Judgment. Whoever does good will see it and will be rewarded for it. And whoever does bad will see it and will be punished for it.

Across the history, God sent many messengers to people to guide them to their Creator and explain to them the truth behind their creation and purpose of life. Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Isa (Jesus) and Muhammad were prophets and Messengers of God, peace be upon all of them.

However, Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him was distinguished by some important characteristics. God chose him to convey the last divine Message to humanity. It is preserved in the Quran, the last divine book to humanity.

However, nowadays, the world is passing through a critical stage that is burdened with social, economical and political problems as well severe catastrophes. All peoples on the globe are looking for a safe exit from this stage.

Osoul Center is introducing this book about Islam to provide a summarized overview in a contemporary context. We pray to Allah to guide you to the truth about His devine books and universal messages.

Osoul Center





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- 1- Prophet Muhammad, ﷺ Brief Biography.
- 2- The Prophecy of Muhammad ﷺ in the Bible .
- 3- How to Embrace Islam?
- 4- Important Websites to Learn about Islam.
- 5- Islam in One Table, a Quick Reference.

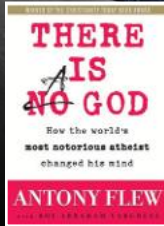
Bibliography **191**

Notes

Who Created Us?



Antony Flew
1923 - 2010



Flew was an advocate of atheism, arguing that one should presuppose atheism until empirical evidence suggesting the existence of a God is proven. He also criticised the idea of life after death.

Before he passed away, Flew had converted from atheism to Deism. In 2007 he wrote his new book (THERE IS GOD) without changing the cover of his previous book, just he scratched on the world (NO).

***Did you think** We created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?*

*So exalted is **Allah**, the Sovereign, the Truth; there is no deity except Him, Lord of the Noble Throne.*

The Quran 23: 115 - 116

The Simplest definition of ISLAM

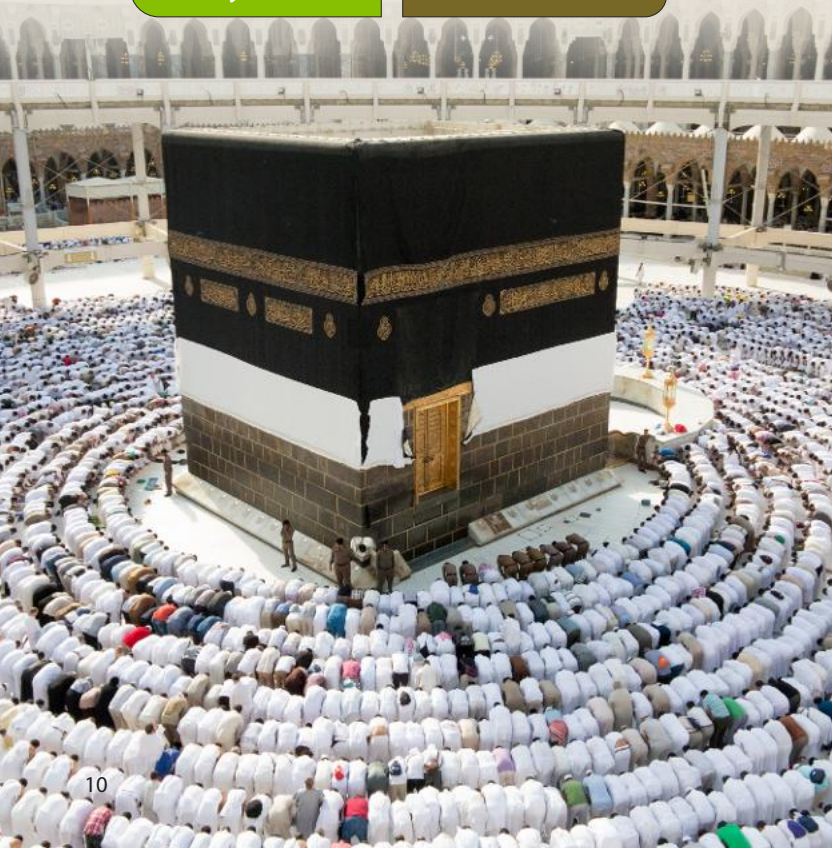
Religion of Monotheism

Universal Message

Final Divine Book

Way of Life

Universal Civilization



ISLAM IN BRIEF

1

1 The Best Definition of Islam

Islam is the religion of monotheism. It carries a universal Message and the final Divine Book (the Quran) from the Lord of people (Who created us) to all people. Once embraced, Islam becomes a prosperous way of life and establishes a universal civilization.

- Muslims believe in one God and worship Him alone. His name is **Allah** (pronounced with a long vowel, **Allaah**). He is the Lord of all beings who created them.
- There is no God or deity except Him. No one is worthy to be worshipped except Him. He neither begets nor is born and He has no partners or children. He alone controls the whole universe and He alone gave life to all living creatures. To Him all people will return after they die.

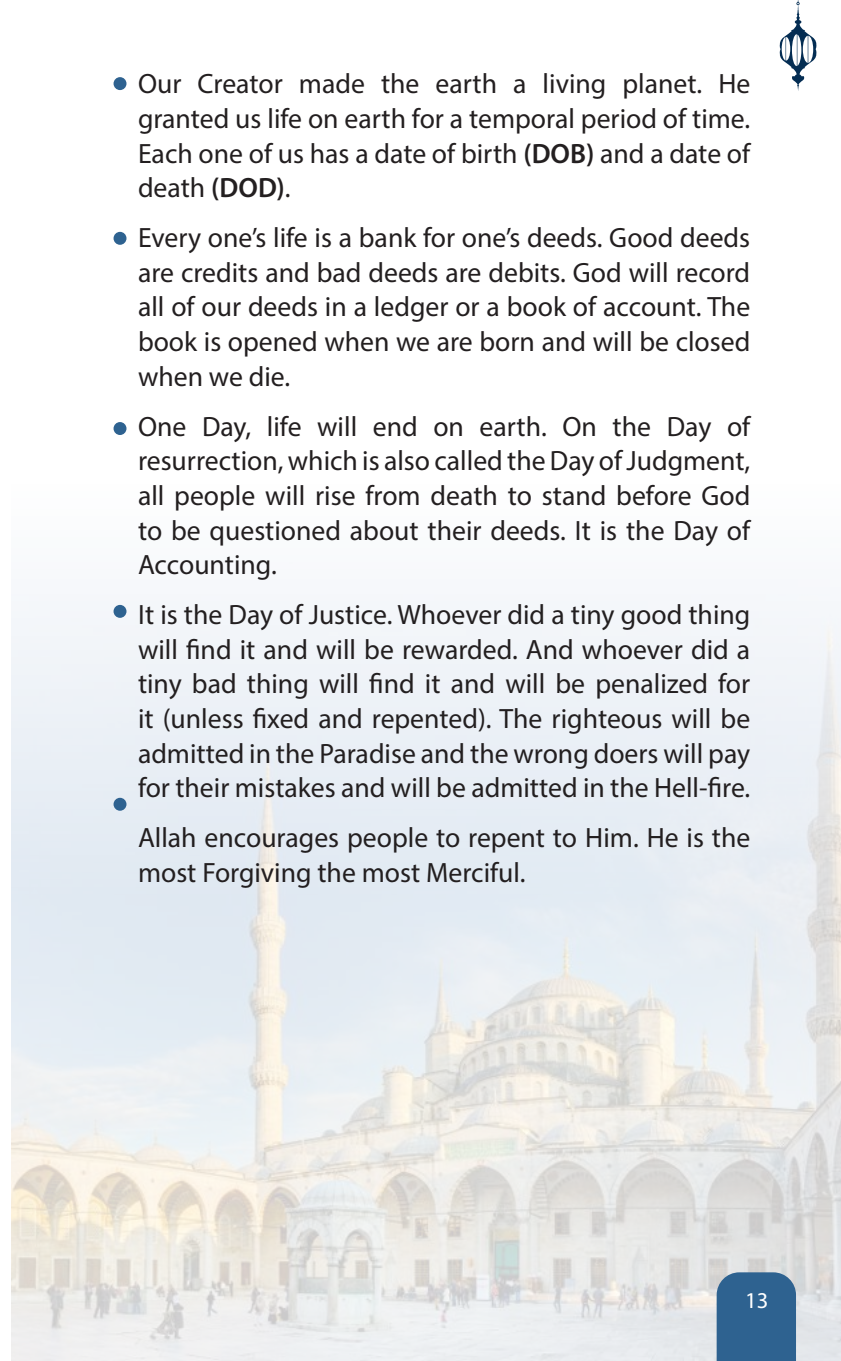


The religion of monotheism means worshipping one God without associating any partners with Him.



- Unlike many other religions and creeds established by prominent men across the history, Muslims believe that Islam was originated by the **Creator of all beings** to guide people to Him, make them aware of the purpose of life and help them make the best of their living on Earth. He is the God and the Lord of all creatures.
- The Prophet of Islam Muhammad ﷺ was not but a Messenger who conveyed God's final Message and concluding divine Book "The Quran" to humanity.
- The Quran acknowledges and confirms all previous books God sent to humanity (in their original forms without subtractions and alterations) such as the Scrolls revealed to Abraham, the Psalms revealed to David, the Torah revealed to Moses, and the Bible revealed to Jesus.
- Therefore, Islam carries the same Message conveyed by the Messengers and Prophets God sent across the history to protect people from being misled (i.e. go astray, worship false deities and fall in abomination).
- It is the Message of monotheism which means worshipping one God alone without associating any partners with Him". It is also a universal Message that alerts people about their short life and awaited meeting with their Lord to question them about their work in their worldly life.
- Worshipping Allah alone is not only by praying to Him, but every good thing we do in His Kingdom and to any of His creatures is an act of worship.

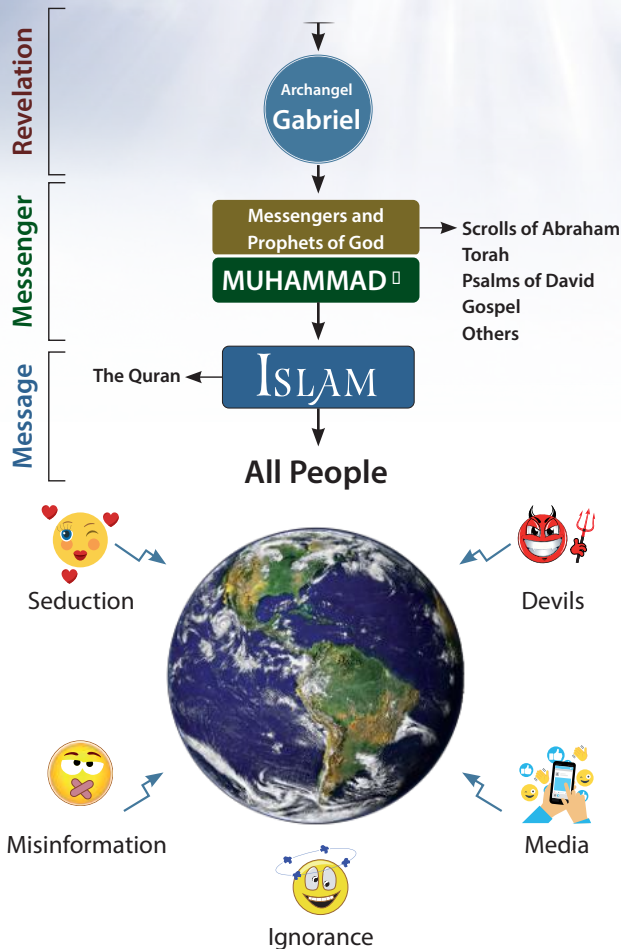
- Our Creator made the earth a living planet. He granted us life on earth for a temporal period of time. Each one of us has a date of birth (**DOB**) and a date of death (**DOD**).
 - Every one's life is a bank for one's deeds. Good deeds are credits and bad deeds are debits. God will record all of our deeds in a ledger or a book of account. The book is opened when we are born and will be closed when we die.
 - One Day, life will end on earth. On the Day of resurrection, which is also called the Day of Judgment, all people will rise from death to stand before God to be questioned about their deeds. It is the Day of Accounting.
 - It is the Day of Justice. Whoever did a tiny good thing will find it and will be rewarded. And whoever did a tiny bad thing will find it and will be penalized for it (unless fixed and repented). The righteous will be admitted in the Paradise and the wrong doers will pay for their mistakes and will be admitted in the Hell-fire.
- Allah encourages people to repent to Him. He is the most Forgiving the most Merciful.





The Creator of all beings

The Lord of people, the King of people, the God of people



ISLAMⁱⁿ One Sentence

A man asked Prophet Muhammadﷺ to explain Islam in simple and clear words. He concisely said to him:

"Say, I believed in Allah then be steadfast in your behavior".

ISLAMⁱⁿ a Few Words

Islam can be summarized in two words:

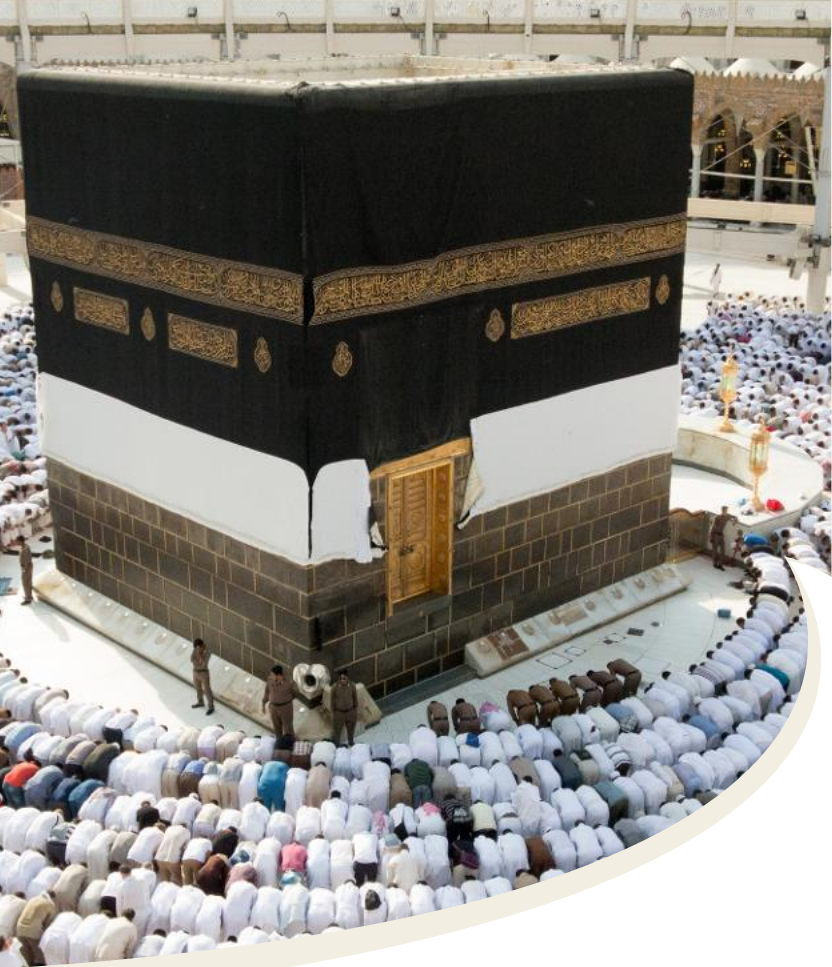
Believe & Do.

Believe in your Lord Who created you, worship Him alone, do not associate any partners with Him.

Submit to His Commands and do good in His Kingdom.

**Believeⁱⁿ God
& Do Good**





Meanings of ISLAM

Submission

submit to your Creator, and
to His Commandments

Peace

achieving peace within yourself
and offering peace to others.

2 Meanings of Islam

1-Islam literally means submission and devotion to One God. All true prophets and messengers who came before Muhammad submitted to Allah.

Who would be averse to the religion of Abraham except the one who makes a fool of himself? We had chosen him (Abraham) in this world, and indeed he will be among the righteous in the Hereafter. When his Lord said to him: "Submit" he said: «I have submitted to the Lord of the worlds".

And Abraham instructed his sons [to do the same] and [so did] Jacob, [saying], "O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims" (i.e. fully submitting to your Lord). The Quran 2 : 132

2-Linguistically the word "**Islam**" in Arabic is derived from the same root word of "**salama**" "**Salaam**" which means peace. The one who submits to Allah should find inner peace within him/her-self and should be at peace with the environment and with the people. Prophet Muhammad described the Muslim as the one whom other people are safe from any harm that he can cause to people by his own deeds or sayings.



3 The Story and Purpose of Life



In order to understand Islam, you need to be aware of the story and purpose of life as viewed by Muslims and many believers in God.

God created Adam and Eve. He fated that they descend to the Earth to live and die there. They are the parents of all humankind. From their children and offspring, nations and tribes were formed.

Adam and his family worshiped God alone and followed His commandments. However, deviations happened from one generation to another. People either lost their religion or worshiped false gods.

Therefore, God sent prophets and messengers to remind people about their Lord who created them and to affirm His oneness in their beliefs. They invited people to submit to God, worship Him alone and follow His commandments. Also, prophets and messengers were reformers, they taught people values and morals. They called for justice and denied oppressions and abominations.

Among the known prophets and messengers of God, are Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, David, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Zachariah, John, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon all of them).

Abraham was eminent in his dedication, struggle and passion to teach people monotheism. Approximately 2000 BCE, God entrusted him to establish the Kaabah on its original foundation in Makkah to become a house for Him on earth, a shrine of monotheism and sanctuary to glorify and worship One God alone without associating any partner with Him.

it is a symbolic House of our Creator on the Earth. it signifies the Oneness of God, our Lord Allah. Believers in Him are invited to do pilgrimage to His House of Worship.

It is also called the Sacred Mosque





- Approximately 1300 BCE, God sent **Moses** to the children of Israel and revealed the Torah to him, a book of Law that regulates people's life and a source of light and guidance to them. Then after many prophets, God sent **Jesus** to the children of Israel and He revealed the Bible to him, a book of light and guidance to people. It confirmed the Book revealed to Moses.

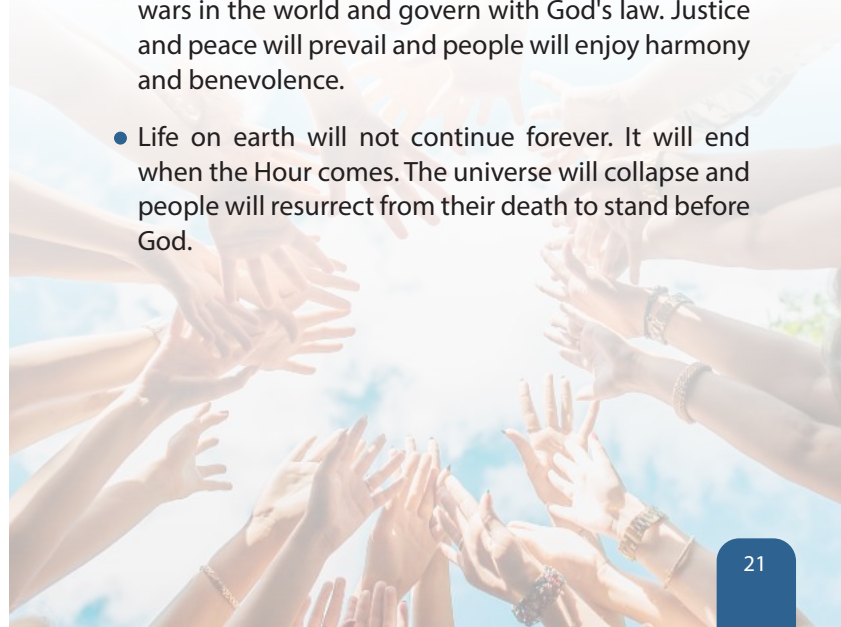
Those who rejected **Jesus** remained **Jews** and those who believed him became Christians.

- Although **Christianity** spread in the world, unfortunately, the creed of **monotheism** was altered to trinity. None of the divine books were protected from alterations and shortage over the history.
- In the year 610 CE, God sent **Muhammad** as a mercy to all people to bring them to **monotheism**, the true religion of God. He sent with him His final and concluding divine book to humanity, the Glorious Quran. It confirms the previous revelations and points out the deviations from the pure divine Message.
- It was unlike other holy books that were written and compiled by monks and saints long time after the passing away of their prophets. The Glorious **Quran** was memorized in the hearts of righteous believers word by word until our time. Thus, it was protected from any alterations and it has been transferred from one generation to another since it was revealed.

- There are no revelations after the Glorious Quran. Prophet Muhammad was the seal of the prophets and the messenger who brought God's final Message to humanity. He indicated that his time was close to the end of life on earth. It could be only few thousand years left before life ends on earth assuming that it started millions of years ago.

Jesus
Return

- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ informed his companions that no messenger will come after him except **Jesus** who will return before the end of the world. He will not bring a new Message from God, but he will confirm the final message of God (the Quran) and unite people under the banner of monotheism.
- Jesus will fight and kill the false Messiah. Subsequently, all evil powers will fall. He will end wars in the world and govern with God's law. Justice and peace will prevail and people will enjoy harmony and benevolence.
- Life on earth will not continue forever. It will end when the Hour comes. The universe will collapse and people will resurrect from their death to stand before God.



CONTEMPORARY OPINIONS

If Muslims believe in Jesus and his return, then they will follow him and they will support him upon his return. Accordingly, can we describe them as Unitarian Christians or followers of Jesus?

Judaism, Christianity and Islam meet at Abraham (father of many prophets and messengers). He only believed and worshiped one God (Allah). He is described as the friend of God. In Islam the word (khalil) is used to describe his obedience to Allah as if a close friend of Allah

“And Allah took Ibrahim an intimate friend”

The Quran, 4:125





THE STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK OF ISLAM

2

1 Islam is Believe and Do, (Aqidah and Shariah)

Islam can be divided into two parts:- (1) The Islamic Creed and (2) The Islamic System (law and way of life). They are commonly known in Arabic as (Aqidah and Shariah).

Aqidah is the “**Believe**” part of Islam. Also, called the six articles of faith. It is the firm belief in God and what He Commanded us to believe in (His angels, His Divine Books, His Messengers, the Day of Judgment and finally, God’s pre-ordainment and fated matters whether they were perceived by people as good or bad).

Shariah is the “**Do**” part of Islam. It is the Islamic system, law and way of life. It is explained in the Quran and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Sunnah). It sets the rules, regulations and guidelines that control three main branches:

1. Rites/acts of worship.
2. Ethics and morals (should be an integral part of the Muslim behavior).
3. Transactions between people (social/financial).



2 God's Divine Law Across the History

Across the history, God's Law was introduced to humanity in divine books that were revealed to the Messengers of God and conveyed to their people. Prophet Muhammad conveyed God's final divine book to humanity (the Glorious Quran). It contains God's Law that regulates peoples' lives and protects them from deviation and destruction.

It is essentially the same law that was revealed in the Torah and conveyed by Moses to the children of Israel. Also, it is the same law Jesus referred to in his famous quote:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Mathew 5:17.

"For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Mathew 5:18.



*And We sent, following in their footsteps,
Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that
which came before him in the Torah; and We
gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance
and light and confirming that which
preceded it of the Torah as guidance and
instruction for the righteous. (46)*

*And let the People of the Gospel judge by
what God has revealed therein. And whoever
does not judge by what God has revealed,
then it is those who are the defiantly
disobedient. (47)*

*And We have revealed to you,
[O Muhammad], the Book in truth,
confirming that which preceded it of the
Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge
between them by what God has revealed and
do not follow their inclinations away from
what has come to you of the truth...*

The Quran, 5:46-48



Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are Abrahamic religions based on belief in one God Who is the Lord and Creator of people and all beings. However, Judaism and Islam reject the doctrine of the Trinity.

Since the law of God is one across the history, you will find many similarities specially between Judaism and Islam.

Muslims see many similarities between Moses and Muhammad. Both were prophets and messengers who brought a Divine Book that included God's Law and Commandments. Both led their people and lived among them for a long period of time. Both married and had children.

Note:

In Judaism and Islam, God is not physical, not divisible and not visible.

As for the Christians, they believe in the Old Testament which has the law of God that was revealed to Prophet Moses, peace be upon him.

*Muslims pray five prayers a day, and Jews pray three prayers a day. Eating pork is forbidden in Judaism and Islam. Jews and Muslims have similar rules for eating animal meat (called **Halal** in Islam and **kosher** in Judaism).*

*Hebrew is similar to Arabic in many vocabularies. The greeting of the Jews (**Shalom Aleichem**) is similar to the greeting of Muslims (**Salam Aliakum**), "Peace be upon you". Muslims add "God's mercy and blessings upon you".*

Prophet **Muhammad** ﷺ praised highly the Prophet **Moses** and indicated that on the Day of Resurrection he will see **Moses** standing and holding the side of the Throne of Allah.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari, 4/157, 3408. 4/159, 3414)

He also said: "I am the nearest of all the people to **Jesus** the son of **Mary**. All the prophets are paternal brothers, and there has been no prophet between me and him (**Jesus**)". (Bukhaari, 3285)





The Islamic Creed

AQIDAH

Believe

Believe in Allah

Believe in His Angels

Believe in His Books

Believe in His Messengers

Believe in the Day of Judgment

Believe in Fate and Preordainment

The Islamic Law

SHARIAH

Do

Rites and Acts of Worship

Mandatory Rites of Worship
The Five Pillars of Islam

- Utter Shahada
- Pray 5 Prayers a day
- Fast Ramadan / once a year
- Pay Zakat / once a year
- Do Hajj / once in a lifetime

Ethics, Values and Morals

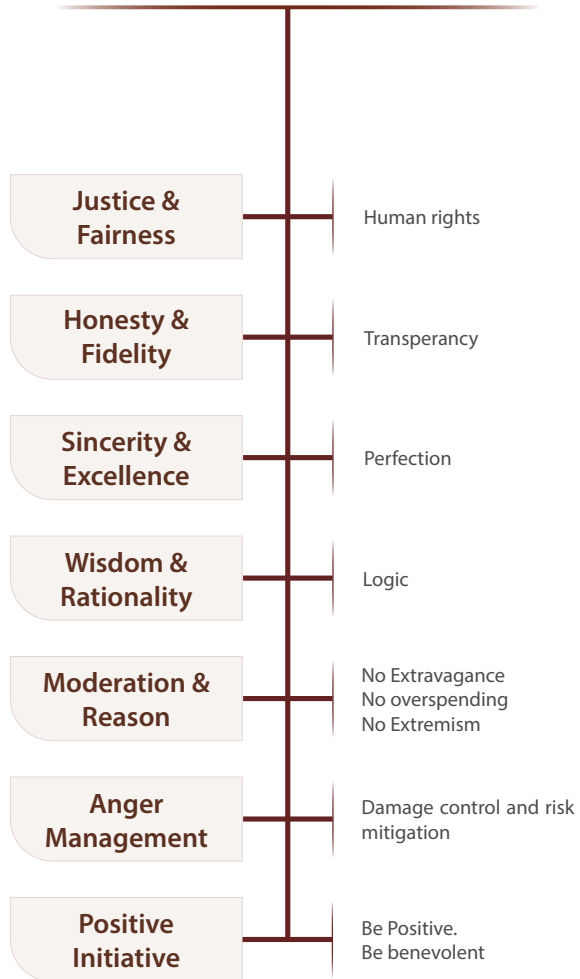
Recommended Acts of Worship

Dealings and Transactions between people

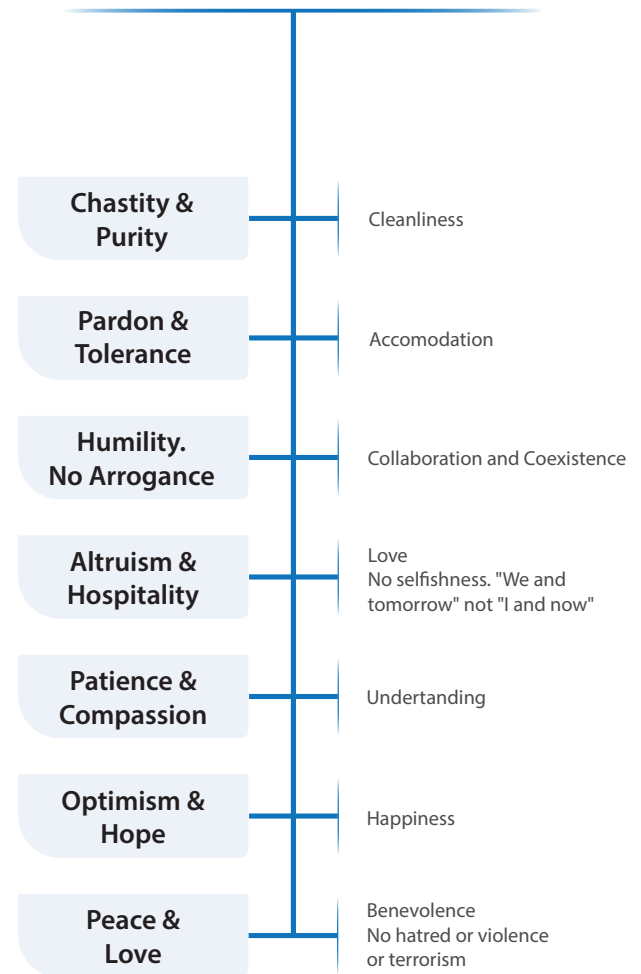
Full Picture of practicing Islam



Islamic Values are Universal Values



Ethics, Values and Morals



Excellence in ISLAM

1 Islam

Entry level

Islam is a fruitful tree.
Its roots represent the faith
in God. Its fruits are one's
sayings and good deeds.



2 Iman

Advanced level

Strong belief and affirmation of faith
associated with willingness and motivation
for betterment in one's behavior.



3

Ihssan

Superior level

"This is to worship Allah as if you see Him,
for if you do not see Him, He sees you"



Excellence in behavior due to self monitoring
of one's sayings and deeds to reach higher
quality in behavior and the ultimate
performance.

THE QURAN, A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE AND THE FINAL DIVINE BOOK

3



1 The Glorious Quran is an Eternal Miracle



The Quran was memorized in the hearts of righteous people word by word from the time it was revealed until now. Muslims often describe it as “The Glorious Quran” because they believe it is the verbatim word of God to humanity. The whole Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad in Arabic during a period of 23 years.

It is the only book that contains the “Pure” Words of God without being rephrased by His Messenger or anyone else. If the companions of Prophet Muhammad captured the meanings of God’s Message and phrased them in their own words, then the Quran would have been similar to the current Bible.

Indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran and indeed, We will be its guardian. The Quran 15:9

Say, «If mankind and the jinn gathered in order to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like of it, even if they were to each other assistants». The Quran 17:88

2 The Quranic Text and Styles of Recitation Have Been Preserved Since its Revelation

However, the concept of recurrence “**tawaator**” is enough to confirm that the present Quran is identical to the one revealed to Prophet Muhammad more than fourteen centuries ago. **Tawaator** indicates that the same Quranic text was memorized, recited and narrated by different groups of people and generations without contradictions, disagreements or discrepancies.

There were no disagreements or inconsistencies among the people who memorized and conveyed the Quran from one generation to another. Tawaator confirms the absolute authenticity of Quran. There is one version of the Glorious Quran. It is memorized, recited and written in Arabic. However, there are many translations for the meanings of the Glorious Quran.

According to Islamic teachings, the Quran cannot be read like a normal text; it must be “**recited**”. The style of reciting the Quran is unique and peculiar. Muhammad’s teachings in his own words cannot be recited in the same style as the recitation of the Quran.

The Quran recitation rules are commonly called “**Tajweed**” in Arabic. It is believed that tajweed is a unique science not available in other religions.

It reflects the highest level of attention given by the Companions of Muhammad to preserve the way he recited the Quran (word by word). Muslims trust that it is not only the text of the Quran that was uniquely preserved, but also the styles in which Muhammad and his companions recited it. The styles of reciting the Quran are documented by the names of the narrators and reciters starting from those who heard it from Prophet Muhammad until now. This is across the whole Islamic world and continued from one generation to another and until now.

Tajweed
Recitation
Rules

Divine Calls to humanity

Finally, many verses in the Quran contain direct speech from God (in the form of calls) to humankind and all people. It also has calls from God to the people of the Book and the believers in the final divine Message.

“O People!

We have created you from a male and a female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most pious. Verily Allah is All-Knower, All-Aware”. The Quran, 49:13



The Creator of people

Lord of people, King of people,
God of people



Archangel
Gabriel



□
Muhammad



All People

There is no human author for the Quran. Muslims consider it as God's Words and His eternal Message to all humankind.

They believe that it is the only book that contains the Words of God without being rephrased by His Messenger or anyone else.



3 The Difference Between the Quran and Hadith (Sayings of the Prophet)

Distinctiveness of Quran: It should be noticed that Muhammad's ﷺ sayings and teachings were not mixed with the Quran (which only contains God's Words without any human comments or elaborations). Muhammad's sayings and teachings were collected in books which were called "**The Sunnah or Hadith of the Prophet**". They included his teachings, his way of life and explanation of the Book (the Quran).

Most holy books of different religions are authored and written by individuals with their own words and phrases. Since Hadith books were collected by Muslim scholars and contained Muhammad's own sayings and teachings, many researchers consider them as similar to other holy books (the way they were authored or written and compiled).



However, Hadith was subject to a high level of verification and authentication. Nowadays, Muslims can tell the level of credibility of any Hadith attributed to Prophet Muhammad and whether it is true or not.

And We have not sent you but to all mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know. The Quran 34:28



Imams of the Prophetic Hadith

Here is a summary of the most important scholars and Imams of the Prophetic Hadith who were inspired to put a system for the collection and preservations of the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad. It scrutinized the sayings attributed to or narrated from him.

Allah described Prophet Muhammad that he “Does not speak of (his own) desire” The Quran, 53:3.

Please note that most of the Hadith scholars lived during the Abbasid Caliphate (750-1517 CE).

Each Hadith (saying of the Prophet) reported by a companion or a follower or any person is examined. **Sanad** is the (chain of narrators) and **Matin** is the (text/content of the hadith).

After thorough examination, Hadiths can be classified as **Saheeh** (sound), **Hasan** (good), **Da'eef** (weak) or **Mawdu** (fabricated /forged). Also, some Hadiths can be “**Mutawatir**” which means consecutively mentioned by many trusted narrators and can be “**Ahad**” coming from a single source which could be true or not.

Nickname	Scholar Name	Age
Imam Malik	Abu Abdullah, Malik bin Anas Al-Madani (711-795) CE. <i>Born / Died: Madinah</i>	84
Imam Ahmad	Ahmad Bin Hanbal, Abu Abdullah (780-855) CE. <i>Born / Died: Baghdad - Iraq</i>	75

Nickname	Scholar Name	Age
Al-Darami	Abdullah bin Abd al-Rahman al-Samarqandi (797-868) CE. <i>Born / Died: Samarkand - uzbekistan</i>	71
Al-Bukhari	Muhammad Ismail Abu Abdullah (810-870) CE. <i>Born / Died: Bukhara - Samarkand, Uzbekistan</i>	60
Abu Dawud	Sulaiman bin Al-Ash'ath Al-Azdi Al-Sijistani (817-888) CE. <i>Born / Died: Sijistan-Basra, Afghanistan-Iraq</i>	71
Muslim	Muslim bin Al-Hajjaj Al-Nisaburi, Abu Al-Hussein (822-875) CE. <i>Born / Died: Nishapur - Iran</i>	53
Al-Tirmizi	Muhammad Issa Abu Issa (824-892) CE. <i>Born / Died: Tirmiz - Uzbekistan</i>	68
Ibn Maja	Muhammad bin Yazid Al-Qazwini, Abu Abdullah, (824-886) CE. <i>Born / Died: Qazvin, Iran</i>	62
Al-Nisaa'i	Ahmad ibn Shu'aib Abu Abd Al-Rahman (829-915) CE. <i>Born / Died: Nisa - Makkah, Turkmenistan then Hijaz (Saudi nowadays).</i>	86
Ibn Hibban	Muhammad ibn Hibban, Abu Hatim (from Arabic origin) (884-965) CE. <i>Born / Died: Best - Sejistan, Afghanistan</i>	81
Al-Tabarani	Suleiman bin Ahmad, Abu Qassim, Al-Shami (821-918) CE. <i>Born / Died: Akko - Isfahan, Palestine - Iran</i>	97
Al-Daraqotni	Ali bin Omar bin Al-Nu'man Al-Baghdadi, Abu Al-Hassan (918-995) CE. <i>Born / Died: Baghdad, Iraq</i>	77

4 Scientific Facts in the Glorious Quran

4.1 The Big Bang and the creation of the universe

At Muhammad's time nobody knew anything about the creation of the universe, people did not know much about the motion of the planets and it was not common knowledge that earth was round.

Fourteen centuries ago, the Quran mentioned the creation of the universe, the motion of the sun and the the moon, the rotation of the earth and the formation of day and night.

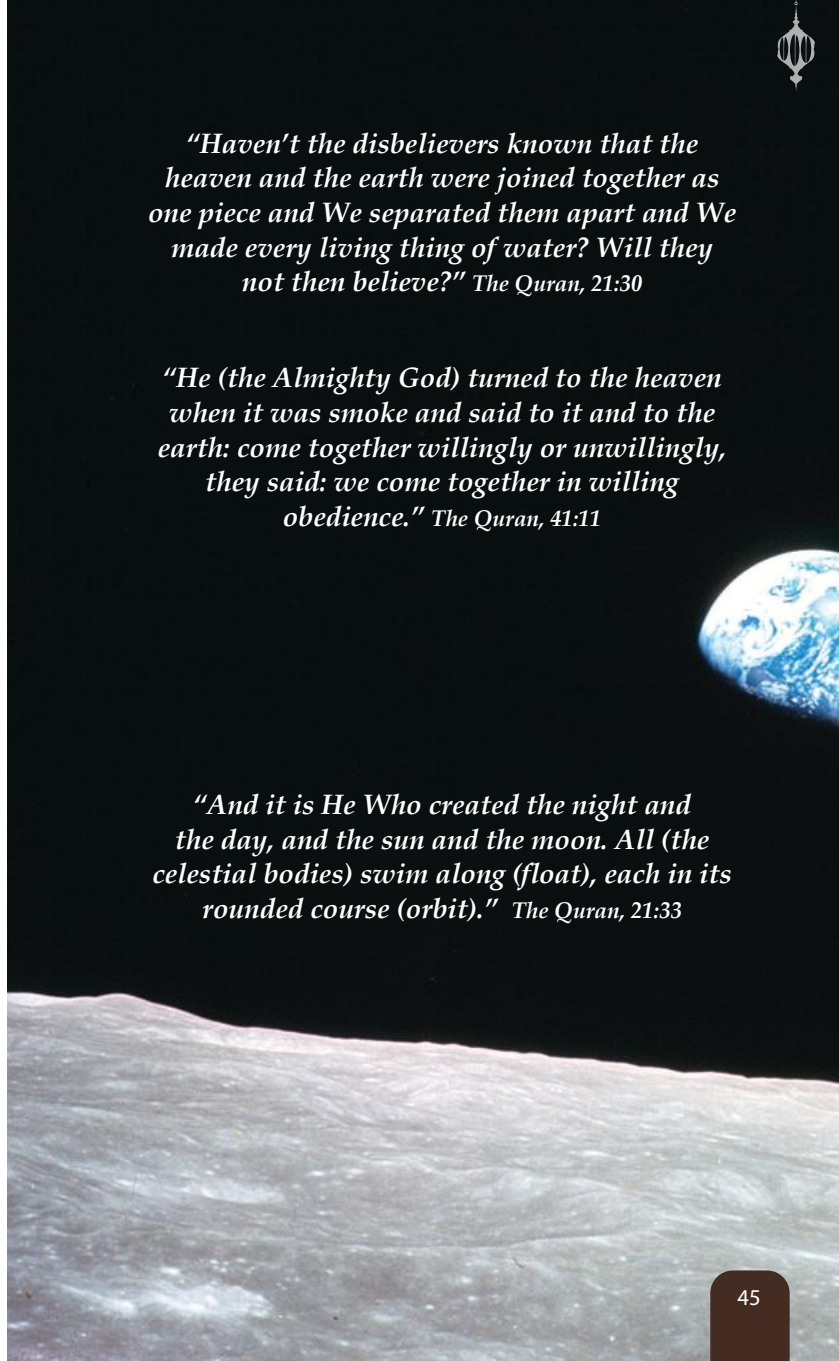
Modern science explains the creation of the universe by the "Big Bang theory" which is supported by observational and experimental data gathered over decades. According to the "Big Bang theory" the whole universe was initially one big mass then there was a huge explosion which resulted in the formation of galaxies out of agglomerated clouds of celestial matter in a smoke or gaseous form.



"Haven't the disbelievers known that the heaven and the earth were joined together as one piece and We separated them apart and We made every living thing of water? Will they not then believe?" The Quran, 21:30

"He (the Almighty God) turned to the heaven when it was smoke and said to it and to the earth: come together willingly or unwillingly, they said: we come together in willing obedience." The Quran, 41:11

"And it is He Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. All (the celestial bodies) swim along (float), each in its rounded course (orbit)." The Quran, 21:33





4.2 The expansion of the universe

In 1925, American astronomer Edwin Hubble provided observational evidence that stars are moving away from each other which implies that galaxies and the whole universe is expanding. Also, it is an established scientific fact that planets move in elliptical orbits around the sun and rotate around their axes. One will be surprised at the similarities between the modern scientific discoveries and the following verses in the Quran, which were recited by Muhammad more than 14 centuries ago and preserved until now.

*"With power and skill We
created the heaven and We are
continuously expanding it."*

The Quran, 51:47

Hobok

The Cosmic Web of Forces and Magnetic Fields

The universe is held together with huge gravitational and momentum forces as well as a complicated web of magnetic fields. However, Quran 51:7 precisely describes the sky that it is formed of "Hobok", an Arabic word that means the perfectly knitted or interwoven fabric. Modern science confirms the universe has a fabric of gravitational and magnetic forces. To learn more about the cosmic web or "Hobok" watch this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9XmJdAcGwM>



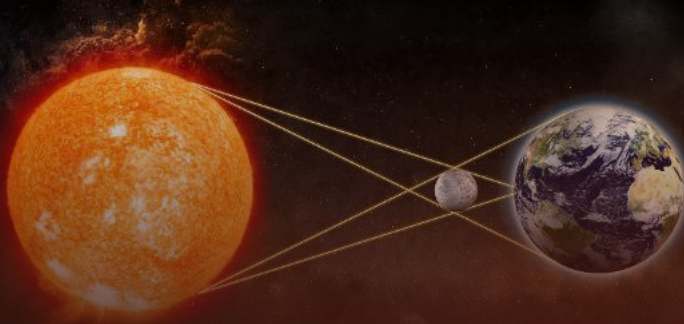
ISLAM is the only religion
that allocates a prayer (Tawaf)
which resembles the motion and
submission of the whole universe to
Allah who created it and all beings.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*"The seven heavens and the earth and
whatever is in them exalt Him. And there
is not a thing except that it exalts [Allah]
by His praise, but you do not understand
their [way of] exalting. Indeed, He is ever
Forbearing and Forgiving."*

The Quran 17:44

At the Sacred Mosque in Makkah, muslims
perform Tawaf which is the circumambulation of
Kaabah. They walk in cricles counter clockwise
as an act of submission to God, which is also
harmonious with the motion of the planets and
even the electrons around the atoms.



The prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The sun and the moon are two signs of Allah; they are not eclipsed on account of anyone's death or on account of anyone's birth. So when you see them, glorify and supplicate to Allah".

Narrated by Bukhari

Islam is unique in allocating a congregational prayer during the lunar and solar eclipse

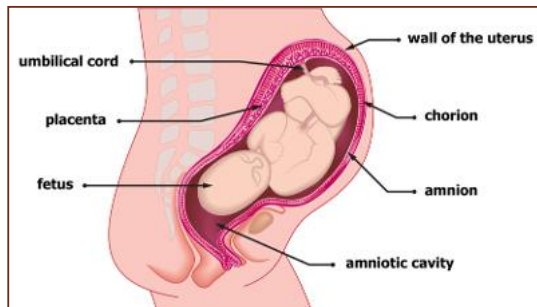
A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes in between the earth and the sun. A lunar eclipse happens when the earth passes in between the moon and the sun.



4.3 The miraculous creation of the human being

The human being is the most complex creature on the planet. Every person has a distinctive identity. This identity is characterized by a unique fingerprint, distinctive eye print and exclusive DNA which carries most of the genetic instructions used in the development, functioning and reproduction of the human being. If uncoiled, the DNA in all the cells in your body would stretch 10 billion miles, from here to Pluto and back.

...He creates you in the wombs of your mothers, creation after creation, in three veils of darkness (threefold gloom). This is Allah, your Lord. The Sovereignty is His. There is no God except Him. How then are you turned away? The Quran, 39:6



Verily We created man from clay then We placed him as a drop (of sperm) in a safe lodging; Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed (solid) blood, then of that clot We made a fetus lump, then We made out of that lump bones then covered the bones with flesh, and then produced it another creation.

The Quran, 23:12-14

Fertilization occurs when the sperm cell successfully enters and fuses with an egg cell (ovum). The genetic material of the sperm and egg then combine to form a single cell called a **zygote** and the germinal stage of prenatal development commences.

Embryogenesis covers the first eight weeks of development and at the beginning of the ninth week the embryo is termed a fetus. The scientific description of the development of the embryo is identical to the above verse.

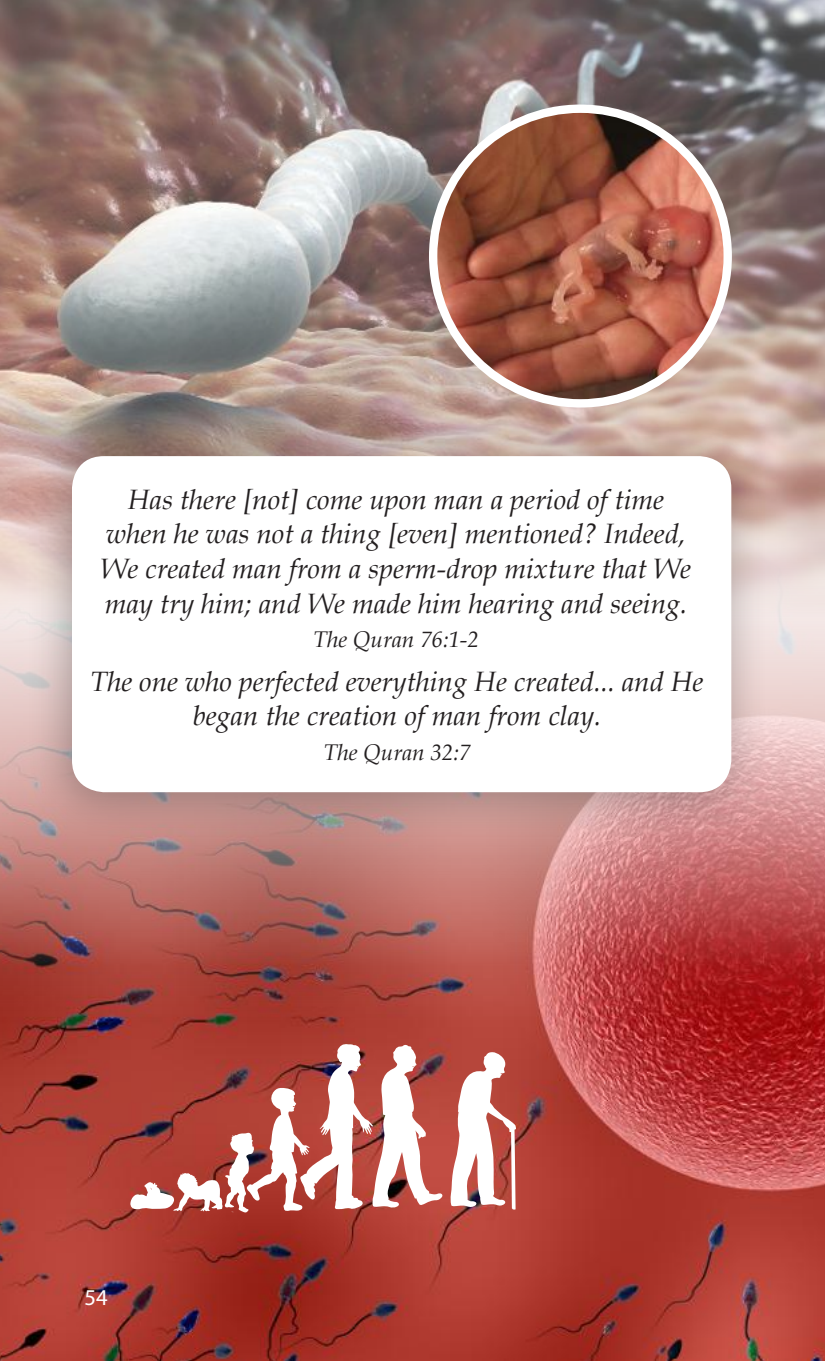
sperm

blood
clot

fetus
lump

bones

flesh



*Has there [not] come upon man a period of time
when he was not a thing [even] mentioned? Indeed,
We created man from a sperm-drop mixture that We
may try him; and We made him hearing and seeing.*

The Quran 76:1-2

*The one who perfected everything He created... and He
began the creation of man from clay.*

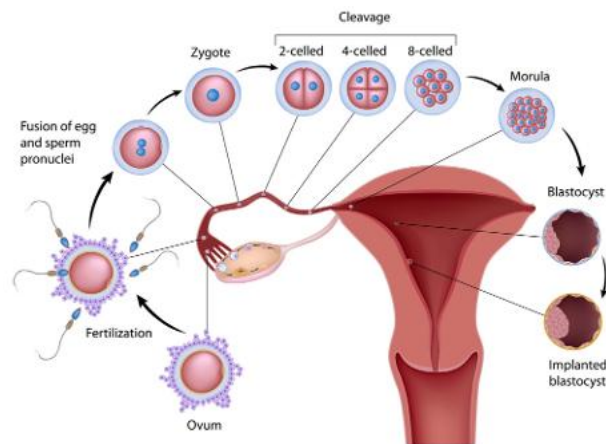
The Quran 32:7

Surprisingly, embryo development as stated in the Quran was found identical to the discoveries of medical science. Also, it was found that bones were formed before the formation of flesh, exactly as mentioned in the above verse.

In addition, scientists discovered that the hearing sense for the embryo develops in the mothers' womb before the sense of sight. This is compatible to the sequence mentioned in the Quran (32:9, 76:2, 23:78). All verses refer to the hearing sense before the sight sense.

***Then He made his posterity out of the extract
of a liquid disdained. Then He proportioned
him and breathed into him from His soul. And
He made for you hearing and vision and hearts;
little are you grateful.***

The Quran, 32:6-9





4.4 Mountains have roots like pegs

In the light of modern science the “root theory” was first introduced in the middle of 19th century and subsequent researches have shown that similarly to icebergs the aboveground part of a mountain is a fraction of the overall size of a mountain. For example the height of Mount Everest is about 9 km but its “root” is considered to reach over 125 km underground.

According to Quran, the mountains are like pegs/stakes; they have “roots” deep inside the ground.

“Have We not made the earth a resting place? And the mountains as stakes?”

The Quran 78:6-7



4.5 Barriers between the waters

Only modern science was able to explain why the waters of two oceans do not mix together but instead there is a visible area of water, a barrier, between the oceans preventing them from mixing together. Scientists have discovered that the oceans cannot mix together because their waters have different temperatures, salinities and densities. According to narrations of prophet Muhammad, he never travelled to places where he could have seen the meeting point of two oceans.

“He released the two seas, meeting (side by side); between them is a barrier (so) neither of them transgresses. So which of the favors of your Lord would you deny?”

The Quran 55:19-20





O Human being!

*Indeed you are exerting a great effort in this
life then returning to your Lord
[carrying only your deeds, good or bad].*

The Quran, 84:6



5 Divine & Universal Calls to Humankind

The Noble Quran includes divine calls and Messages from the Lord of people to all people regardless of their race or faith. It also includes verses in the form of reminders from the Creator of all beings to the human being (the creature). It reminds man about his origin. It invites him to look at his body, contemplate and think about his departure and return to his Lord. The following is a selection of these universal calls.

O Human being!

Did you think that We created you uselessly and that to Us you would not be returned?" So exalted is Allah, the Sovereign, the Truth; there is no deity except Him, Lord of the Noble Throne.

The Quran 23:115-116

O Human being!

What has deceived you concerning your Lord, the Most Gracious who created you, proportioned you, and balanced you? In whatever form has He willed to compose you.

The Quran, 82:6-8





Praise be to Allah

Who created the heavens and the earth, and made the darkness and the light. Yet those who disbelieve in Him, hold others as equal with their Lord.



It is He who created you from clay then He decreed a term for the life of each human being on earth.

And He decreed a specified time known to Him [for your resurrection on the Day of Judgment]. Yet you have doubt about that.

And He is the God in the heavens and in the earth. He knows your secrets and what you make public, and He knows that which you earn.

The Glorious Quran, 6:1-3

O People!

Worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, that you may become righteous.

[He] who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky, rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know [that there is nothing similar to Him].

The Quran 2:21 -22

O People!

*Your injustice is only against yourselves.
You have the enjoyment of worldly life;
then to Us is your return,
and We will inform you
of what you used to do.*

The Quran, 10:23

*"Corruption has appeared throughout the land
and the sea from what the hands of people
have earned. God may let them taste part of
[the consequence of] what they have done that
they will return [to righteousness]."*

The Quran, 30:41

*If He wills, God can wipe you out, O people,
and bring others [in your place]. Surely God is
powerful over that.*

The Quran, 4:133



O People!

Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him. Verily the earthquake of the Hour of Doom is a tremendous thing. The day you see it, every nursing mother will forget her baby and every pregnant woman will abort her pregnancy.

And, and you will see people as if they were drunk, yet they will not be drunken but the punishment of God will be severe.

The Quran, 22:1-2

In the Bible, the day when people come out of their tombs to stand before their Lord is called "Doomsday".

In the Quran, it is frequently called "The Day of Resurrection" or "Day of Judgment". It is also called "Day of Decisiveness", 77:13 "Day of Recompense" 82:15, "Day of Account or Day of Reckoning" 38:26 , "Day of Assembly or Gathering" 42:7 and "The Imminent or Approaching" 53:57.

Also, Quran describes the day when life ends on earth: "The Final Day" 2:177. In addition, it is given other names, such as "The Hour" 15:85, "The Striking Calamity" 101:1, "Deafening Blast" 80:33, "The Greatest Catastrophe" 79:34, "The Inevitable Event" 56:1, "The Inevitable Reality" 69:1.

The Quran is the only divine book on earth that is memorized from cover to cover in its original language (Arabic) by thousands of people from different races across history.

The Quran is the only divine book that contains the words of our Creator without being mixed by any phrases or words composed by a human being.

It is the only divine book that includes divine universal calls from the Lord of people to all people. Also, it is the only divine book that contains proven scientific facts about the creation of human being and the creation of the universe





ISLAM

A MORAL & MATERIAL CIVILIZATION

4

1 Islam is a Religion for all People

Islam is a universal message of guidance from the Lord of people to all people. It aims to protect them from being misled and going astray (over the history, people kept worshipping false deities and falling in abomination). All people are invited to embrace this Message. It brought people back to monotheism and recognition of their true Lord Who created them.

*“O mankind!
We have created you from a male and a female,
and have made you nations and tribes that
you may know one another. Verily the most
honorable of you in the sight of Allah, is the most
pious. Verily Allah is All-Knower, All-Aware”.*

The Quran, 49:13

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. Arab Muslims represent only 15% of the total number of Muslims in world (about 1.8 billion).



2 Islam is the Religion of Freedom and Racial Equality

Islam calls for unity and equality of human race. It eliminated slavery and race supremacy, which is still one of the world's most critical and tenacious problems. All people are gauged against piety and good deeds regardless of their race, color or gender.

"And had your Lord willed, all people in the earth would have believed (all of them) together. So will you (Muhammad) compel or force people until they become believers?" The Quran, 10:99

"There is no compulsion in religion, truth (the right path) has become distinct from error (wrong path), and whoever rejects evil and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. And God is All-Hearer All-Knower." The Quran, 2:256

Human rights guaranteed

Islam protects all human rights regardless of one's ethnicity, color, language, or gender.

That's why it spread easily in Africa and different parts of the world. Indonesia is a good example of a whole nation that embraced Islam because of the honesty, justice and good conduct of Muslims traders who interacted with them.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Your Lord is One. All humankind are from Adam and Adam was created from dust. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab except by piety" (Farewell address, Musnad Ahmad 10/5586, 23972)

Note: Not all Prophet Muhammad's companions were Arabs. For example, Bilal was abyssinian and Salman was from Persia.

3 Islam is the Religion of Justice

In Islam, God has many beautiful names and attributes. Allah is the Judge, the Ultimate Arbiter, (Al-Hakam), the Utterly Just (Al-Adl).

The Quran includes God's Commandments to enact a universal order and prevent mischief, aggression and injustice in His kingdom. It provides guidelines for the best living on Earth. It tells people how to spread love, tolerance and virtue. It informs people how to achieve and maintain justice, peace and welfare. It teaches them how to reach social and financial integration.



Islamic calligraphy produced by the Turkish calligrapher Hassan Chelebi for a verse in the Quran.
God says to people:

"When you judge between people you judge with justice." The Quran, 4:58.

Judge with justice; the story of To'mah and a Jewish man:

On one occasion, an Arab man called To'mah Bin Ubayriq stole a metal shield which was part of a suit of armour and hid it in the house of his Jewish friend. The Jewish person was accused of stealing the metal shield but he denied the charge and accused To'mah.



As the offender was not known yet, many Arab Muslims sympathized with To'mah and tried to influence Muhammad's opinion to turn the case against the Jewish man but Islamic justice prevailed. To'mah was proved guilty and the Jewish man was proved to be innocent. In this context, a verse was revealed in the Quran asserting justice:

"Surely We have sent down to you the Book with truth so that you judge between people according to what God has shown you (taught you justice). So don't be a pleader on behalf of those who betray their trust." The Quran, 4:105



And establish weight in justice and do not make deficient the balance. The Quran, 55:9



YOUR MOTHER FIRST

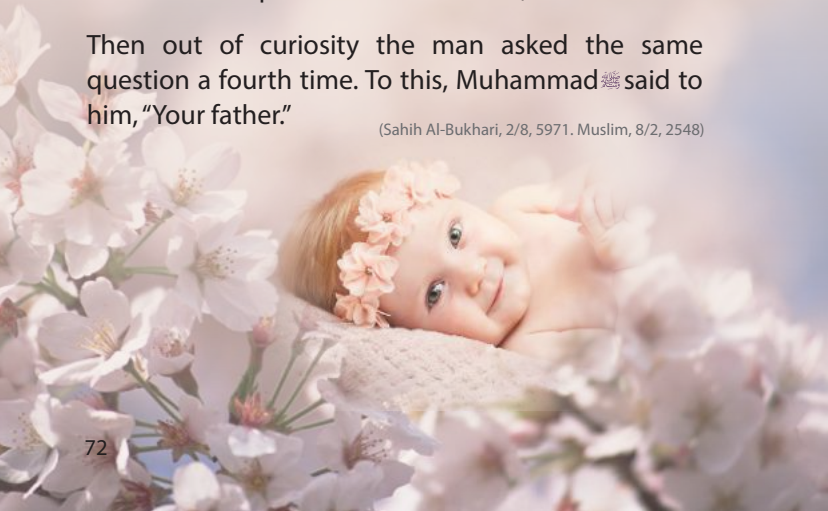
A man asked Muhammad ﷺ : "Who deserves my closest support and companionship? Muhammad ﷺ replied, "Your mother." Then the man asked Muhammad ﷺ , who will be after her?



Muhammad ﷺ replied, "Your mother." The man asked the same question again and Muhammad replied for the third time, "Your mother."

Then out of curiosity the man asked the same question a fourth time. To this, Muhammad ﷺ said to him, "Your father."

(Sahih Al-Bukhari, 2/8, 5971. Muslim, 8/2, 2548)



4 Islam Gave Women Rights They Did Not Have Previously

Islam carries a universal message from the Creator of people to all people. It protects all human rights regardless of one's ethnicity, color, language, or gender. Women are highly valued in Islam, as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers but also in their own right.

By the command of God, women's social and financial rights are protected (just as men's are) and women enjoy a high level of security and social justice. Without a doubt, the advent of Islam more than 1400 years ago was a historic turning point in women's rights.

Muhammad ﷺ condemned discrimination between male and female children and taught his companions to love their children and raise them properly regardless of their sex. In fact, he emphasized giving more care and attention to female children until they grow up and get married. Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Women are the twin halves of men."

(Tirmithi, 1/154, 113)



4.1 Islamic rules protect women rights

- Islam banned all inhumane practices that were rampant in Arabia and many other parts of the world, such as gender discrimination (when babies are born), female infanticide, forced female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, spousal abuse and all other forms of domestic violence.
- Islam set well-defined rights and benefits for women whether being single, married, divorced, or widowed. Wives have rights over their husbands and husbands have rights over their wives.
- Females' earnings and properties are protected. They have explicit financial and inheritance rights. Before Islam, women had no right to inherit. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ successfully changed this custom. However, he did not create the Islamic inheritance system, but he conveyed God's Words (preserved in the Quran) which stipulate the portions for each individual (male and female) eligible to inherit.

Note:

The Prophet emphasized on several occasions the good treatment of females and he described them as delicate and "as fragile as glass". He told his companions that whoever raises his daughters properly and obeys God in caring for them and guiding them to faith, he will gain Paradise.



- **Women have a unique identity:** Before Islam women were considered their men's personal property. Islam recognized women's unique identity and gave women human dignity. One of the concrete reminders of this is the Islamic ruling that says women should keep their own surname when they marry.



- **Muhammad empowered women:** Within his endeavors to empower women's roles in the society, the prophet encouraged women to seek education and allocated certain days of every week for women education.

He urged them to participate in Islamic events, feasts and prayers. Even housemaids could meet Muhammad, talk to him and seek his help or advice.

He also asked women to do a formal pledge (as men did) since they were responsible to the Islamic law. Women play a crucial role in society as they nurture and raise the next generation who will form the nation. Muslim women were empowered to take an active role in the society without overlapping men's role.





4.2 Women and Islam in the Modern World

Are the Islamic teachings applicable in our modern world? Do they satisfy women's current needs? Below is a brief overview of three distressing global problems and how Islam tackles them.

1 The woman's body is not a commodity

Islam honors women and protects them from being exploited. Prostitution and adultery are strictly forbidden in Islam.



The Islamic teachings forbid using women's bodies or femininity for public entertainment and sexual temptation, so businesses or advertisements that rely on exposing women's bodies for temptation and attraction are not allowed in Islam. Women are valued for who they are, not merely for their appearance. Practicing Muslim women dress modest clothing and are free from social pressure to meet changing beauty standards.

In addition, the sex trade and human trafficking are serious crimes in Islam, as in other major religions. The Islamic teachings block out all abominations such as nudity and pornography as well as other means that could lead to sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, or the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.



2 Non-marital relations and illegitimate children

In Islam, sexual relations are only between women and men, through marriage. This golden rule can solve growing problems worldwide in relation to illegitimate children as well as children of unknown fathers or parents (waifs). The Islamic teachings stress preserving genealogy and identity of children and attributing them to their biological fathers and mothers.



By stipulating marriage, Islam honors women and protects their feelings, dignity, and rights. It also ensures that the father will be financially responsible for any children born of the marriage.

Marriage stipulates rights for females such as the right to a "Mahr" (a bridal gift from the husband to his wife) to ensure that the man is serious in proposing marriage to the woman. In the case of separation or divorce, the woman has a legal right to alimony (financial maintenance).

"And don't approach (come near unto) fornication (unlawful premarital or extramarital sex), Lo! It is an abomination and an evil way". The Quran, 17:32



3 Domestic violence and women abuse

Islam promotes sincere relations between men and women that are based on love and mutual respect. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, a role model for all people, emphasized on several occasions the good treatment of females. He never hit or abused any person (a woman or a servant or anyone) in his life. He taught the believers that whenever and wherever gentleness is used, it adds value and brings about good results. In contrast, roughness and indelicate behavior will spoil every matter. [Narrated by Muslim]



Domestic violence is a huge problem worldwide. In recent decades, African countries have had the highest rates of domestic violence and rape crimes. Domestic violence costs the American economy more than \$100 million every year in lost wages, absenteeism, and sick leave, and medical expenses resulting from domestic violence total as much as \$5 billion annually. In Spain, a total of 158,217 women were subjected to violence by men in 2017, making it the worst year on record for violence against women there. In the Middle East, honor crimes are common in many countries. It is reported that 37% of Arab women had experienced some form of violence.

What did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ say in relation to women?

In a society that supports polygamy without any limit, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was married to one wife for twenty-five years until she passed away. He was a loyal husband and family man.

He urged young men to get married and establish good families. Parents should raise their children properly and take care of them regardless of their gender. He said ﷺ:

"The believers who show the most perfect faith are those who have the best character; and the best of the believers are those who are best to their wives".

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.

The Quran, 30:21

Note:

Islam does not accept forced marriages; both man and woman have to agree on the marriage. Man is obliged to pay to his bride (not to the family of the bride) an amount of money that both agree either in money or for example in valuables.





5 Islam is the Religion of Mercy

In Islam, God has many beautiful names and attributes. Allah is the Entirely Merciful (Al-Rahman), the Especially Merciful (Al-Raheem).



Prayers to the Most Merciful

Muslims start their five prayers by reciting the opening chapter (Al-Fatiha). It starts with the following verses:-



In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgment.

And when those come to you who believe in Our verses, say, "Peace be upon you. Your Lord has decreed upon Himself mercy: that any of you who does wrong out of ignorance and then repents after that and corrects himself - indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful."

The Quran, 6:54

وَمَا سَلَكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

God describes his Messenger Muhammad as a mercy to the worlds (Quran, 21:107). When you read more about Islam, you will discover that Islam is a mercy for all creatures.

Prophet Muhammad's teachings in relation to showing mercy with children & Orphans and others are numerous. Here are two of his famous sayings.



"I and the person who looks after an orphan will be in Paradise like this, putting his index and middle fingers together" (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 7/53, 5304).

"None of us is the one who does not show mercy to child and does not respect the eldest" (Tirmithi / Abu Dawood).

Prophet Muhammad was forgiving even to his enemies and used to pray to God to show them the truth and guide them to the truth.





Mercy with animals

Prophet Muhammad was against detaining or confining or restraining animals for no genuine reason. Also, he didn't like lashing or hitting animals and forbade torturing them.

A kind act, even to animals, deserves to be rewarded by God. Muhammad once told his companions the story of a thirsty man who found a well of water and went down to drink. When he went up, he found a thirsty dog gasping in thirst, so the man went down in the well again to fill his shoe with water and brought it up to the dog. God was thankful for this man's compassion and forgave his past sins. (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 32466 ,132/. Muslim, 7,44/ 2244)



On another occasion Muhammad told his companions that God had punished a woman because she imprisoned and confined a cat until it died. She neither fed the cat nor let it go. (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 3071)



6 Islam is the Religion of Peace

Allah is the Peace: In Islam, God has many beautiful names and attributes. "The Peace" is one of the beautiful names of Allah.

Islam indicates peace: Linguistically the word "Islam" in Arabic is derived from the same root word of "Salaam" which means peace. Islam means achieving peace within one's self and offering peace to others.

Greetings of peace: In a Muslim society, people greet each other with the word "Assalamo Alaykom" which means "peace be upon you". The short version is "Salam" which means peace.

Supplication of peace: Prophet Muhammad taught his companions to recite the following supplication after finishing their daily prayer: "Oh my Lord! You are the Peace and the peace comes from You. You are blessed and glorified".

Prayer of peace: Righteous Muslims confirm their commitment to peace every day in their prayers. They say: "Assalamo Alaykom warahmato Allah wa barakatuho" when they finish each of their five daily prayers. It means "peace be upon you as well as God's mercy and blessings".





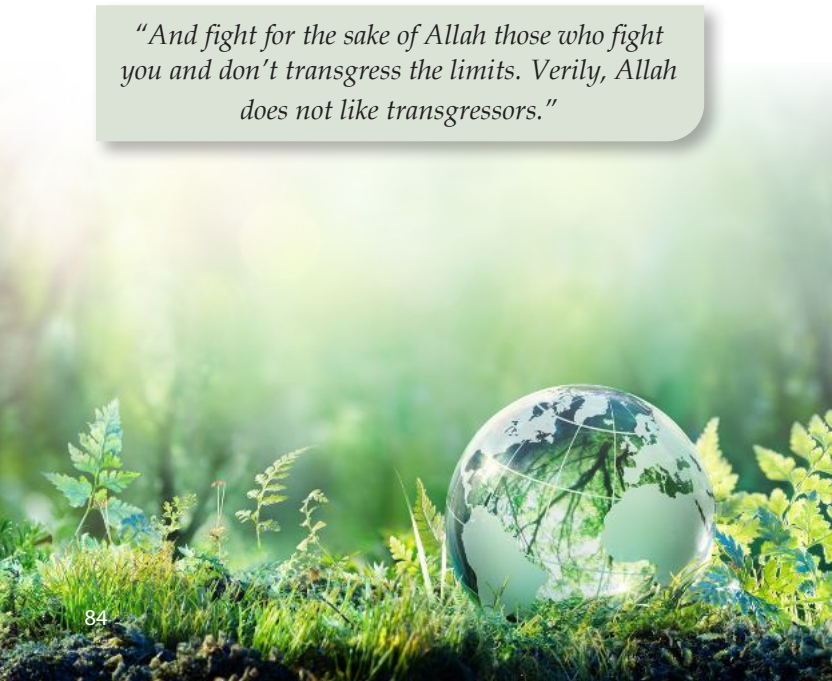
In case of war

Muhammad ﷺ taught his followers to be assertive with their enemies, neither submissive nor aggressive. He was inevitably involved in battle fields. Muhammad set rules and ethics of engagement with enemies in battles and dealing with prisoners of war.

He taught Muslims not to fight civilians and not to attack or kill children or women or elders. He asked them not to destroy the environment or damage trees.

He always reminded them that their involvement in battles should be on assertive ground and for the sake of God Who does not like transgressors. Verse 190, Chapter 2 of the Quran sets the basic rule for fighting enemies and aggressors. It clearly states:

"And fight for the sake of Allah those who fight you and don't transgress the limits. Verily, Allah does not like transgressors."



Sanctity & inviolability of human lives

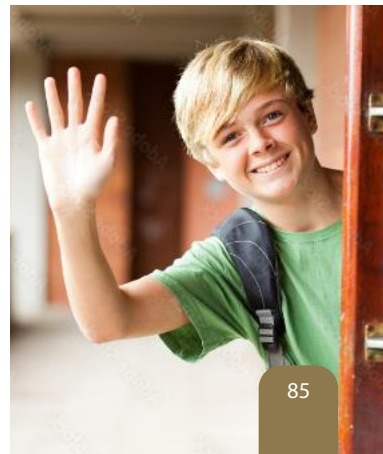
Because God is the creator of life and the only controller of it, He owns every creature's life. God states in the Quran in relation to the first murder incident in the history when Cain, the son of Adam, killed his brother Abel:

"For that We decreed for the Children of Israel that whosoever murders a human-being who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes (mischief on the earth), it shall be as if he had murdered all the people, and whosoever saves the life of a human-being, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all humankind."

The Quran, 5:32



It is interesting to know that in a Muslim society, people greet each other with the word "Assalamo Alaykom" which means "peace be upon you" instead of the words "Hi" or "Hello". The full version of this statement is "peace be upon you as well as Allah's mercy and blessings".





Mind

Islam invites you to reflect on God's creation and His Signs. Prophet Muhammad encouraged people to be enlightened with useful knowledge and forbade intellectual and behavioral extremism. He taught his companions and followers how to lead a balanced way of life.

Body

Prophet Muhammad recommended his companions to practice sport, stay healthy and eat little or just enough. He forbade them from depriving their bodies from their basic needs. Also, he recommended them to get married and to satisfy their sexual needs in a lawful way.

Soul

Islam enjoins on you five daily prayers to God. It invites you to supplicate to Him and seek His support and forgiveness.

Islam guarantees for you the optimum spiritual fulfillment not only through prayers and connecting with your Creator, but through other acts of worship such as fasting and paying alms (zakat) to help the needy people.

7 Islam is the Religion of Moderation

The Islamic teachings help maintain the right balance between materialism and spiritualism. The needs of body and soul must be satisfied but in the right balance and in lawful ways.



And thus we have made you a middle / justly balanced (moderate) nation that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you. The Quran, 2:143

Muhammad condemned extremism:

He encouraged people to take religion as a motivator for a better way of life which adds value to their bodies and souls. He called for a balanced way of life, balanced views and rational thinking. It is narrated that three people came to his house to ask about his style of worship. Muhammad wasn't at home and his wife talked to them. However, they found his level of worship less than what they expected.

They thought that a religious way of life requires focusing on spiritualities and ignoring some of the body needs or depriving it from natural desires.





According to their understanding, a religious person needs to stay single and must not get married. Also, he or she needs to fast every day and perform every night extra prayers besides the daily prayers.

When Muhammad knew what they said, he was upset but he stated that he usually performed extra prayers at night and rested like other people. In addition to the annual fasting in the month of Ramadan, he fasted for some time and he did not fast for other times. Finally, he got married and did not like people to stay single. He said:

“This is my Sunnah (the way of life that God likes). Whoever does not accept it, he / she is not one of us”. (Bukhaari, 1184) and (Muslim, 849)

Muhammad does not like difficulty: It is narrated that whenever Muhammad had to decide on a matter or an issue where more than one option or alternative was given, he always avoided hardship and chose the least complicated one provided that it fulfilled the required goals and did not involve unlawful acts.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari, 8/160, 6786. Sahih Muslim, 7/80, 2327)

Simplicity



8 Islam Promotes Family Values

Islam cannot be practiced in isolation from the family and society. Islam is distinguished by its focus on forming good families and promoting family values.



Young individuals are encouraged to get married and raise their children to be good citizens that are able to add positive value to the society.

The Quran commands believers to be dutiful to their parents and treat them with love and respect.

And We have enjoined upon man care for his parents. His mother carried him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the final destination. The Quran, 31:14





Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "He is a loser that is humbled into dust" (he said that three times). His companions asked: Who is he?, Prophet Muhammad replied: The one whose

parents are still alive or one of them but he does not honor them and takes care of them, a great opportunity to please God to enter His Paradise". Narrated by Muslim 1551

And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, «My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.»

The Quran 17:23 - 24

- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "All of you are guardians and are responsible for your wards. The ruler is a guardian and responsible for his subjects; the man is a guardian and responsible for his family; the woman is a guardian and is responsible for her husband and her children; the servant is a guardian and so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your wards."

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Whoever would like his provision to be increased and his life to be extended (with prosperity), he or she should uphold the ties of kinship." (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim).





9 Islam is the Religion for Good and Productive Societies

Islam promotes an ethical civilization with an unparalleled positive influence. First, it influences “You” by organizing your relationship with your Lord who created you. In addition, it organizes your relationship with yourself so you protect and develop your mind, body and soul.

This positive influence extends to cover your parents then your family then your relatives then your friends and neighbors then all people.

Islam teaches you how to love and become beloved. It teaches you how to win people’s hearts by greeting them, sharing food with them and meeting them with a bright and smiling face. Also, it teaches you how to win peoples’ respect on the basis of honesty, fairness, integrity and keeping promises.

Finally, Islam has a positive effect on your behavior with your surrounding environment and everything in it. It provides you with guidelines for animal welfare, environment protection and preservation of its natural resources.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “I swear by God that you will not be true believers in Him unless you love each other. I will tell you something, if you do it you will love each other. Greet each other frequently and make it a common habit.”

(Narrated by Muslim 54)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “No one will become a good believer unless he wishes for his brethren what he likes for himself.”

(Narrated by Muslim 2699)



Muhammad ﷺ emphasized kindness to neighbors:

Muhammad told his companions that Archangel Jibril frequently asked him to treat his neighbors well. Muhammad stated that whoever believes in God and the Day of Judgment should be kind to his / her neighbors.

On one occasion he said to a companion called Abu-Tharr: "If you cook soup, cook it with more water (i.e. increase its quantity) so that it becomes enough to give some to your neighbors." (Sahih Muslim, 8/37, 2625)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"I swear by God that he is not a true believer in Him" (he said that three times) The companions asked: Who is He? Prophet Muhammad said: The one whose neighbor does not feel safe from his behaviors (wrongful conduct). Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim

Muhammad abolished bad social manners:

He stated on several occasions that the people of good morals would be the closest to him on the Day of Judgment and the most beloved by him. Also he stated:

"Don't hate each other and don't envy each other and be brothers." Narrated by Muslim

"O believers, don't disdain (or ridicule or deride) each other neither men deride men nor women deride women, the latter could be better than the former.

"Don't defame one another and don't insult one another and whoever does so and does not repent to Allah he or she is indeed a wrongdoer."

The Quran, 49:11

Greeting people is a message of peace:

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Don't ever underestimate any kind act, even if you meet others with a bright (smiling) face." And he said: "The one who greets others first is closer to God than the others." On another occasion he said to someone who asked him about a good way to deal with people: "Offer people food and greet whom you know and whom you don't know."

(Narrated by Muslim 2626)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: Meeting others with a bright smiling face is an act of charity.



The Time Surah Al-Asr

By Time! Indeed, mankind is in loss, except those who believed (in God) and do righteous deeds, and exhort (join together) in Truth, and

Patience The Quran, 78:1-3

By time that passes very fast, by age or eon that slips away, by the time of afternoon that indicates the descent of sun and the decline of the daylight to its weakest point before sun sets and disappears,

Verily, man is in continuous loss. As the human being ages and gets older and older, he or she is doomed to suffer loss in physical strength, health and joy in life.

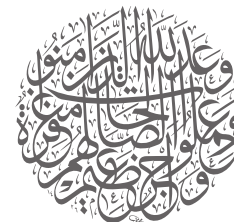
A day passes, a day elapses of your life. Your life is minutes and seconds; seize them!

10 Islam Encourages Positive Behavior and the Initiative for Good Deeds

In Islam, sound faith in God is always linked with doing good deeds and caring for parents and being dutiful with them.

Allah has promised those who believe and do righteous deeds [that] for them there is forgiveness and great reward.

The Quran, 5:9



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“Any Muslim who plants a seed that grows to a level, people or animals or birds can benefit or eat from it, then this act is considered as a Sadaqa” (a charity that is rewarded by God).

(Bukhaari, 2320) and (Muslim, 1188)

“Faith (in God) can be branched into more than 70 parts topped by testifying the oneness of God. The last part of it is removing harm from people's way”. (Sahih Al-Bukhari, 1/11, 9)





Trade and business ethics: The Prophet encouraged trade and commerce based on noble Islamic values that denounce cheating, unethical dealings, deception, fraud, monopoly and exploitation.

Muhammad ﷺ said: "Whoever cheats is **not** one amongst us" (i.e. among the righteous believers) Narrated by Muslim. Also he said: "God bestows His mercy on a person who is tolerant when he buys, tolerant when he sells and tolerant when he asks for his rights."

(Applicable for males and females - Bukhari, 2076/16)

Lying or breaking a promise is hypocrisy:

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever has the following four (characteristics) will be a hypocrite and whoever has one of them will have one characteristic of hypocrisy until he gives it up:

- ❶ Whenever he is entrusted, he betrays;
- ❷ Whenever he speaks, he tells a lie;
- ❸ Whenever he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous;
- ❹ Whenever he quarrels, he behaves in a very imprudent, evil and insulting manner."

He also said: "Whoever helps a believer overcome a difficulty, God will help him overcome a difficulty on the Day of Judgment, and God will always help an individual as long as he/she is helping others."

(Narrated by Muslim)

"O believers!

Avoid much suspicion, for some suspicion is a grave (serious) sin and don't spy on one another, nor backbite against one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it. So fear Allah (God), He is the Most Forgiving the Most Merciful." The Quran, 49:12

"O believers!

If a transgressor brings you some news (that may require taking action then verify it carefully before you believe him or her and act upon it, so you don't harm people in ignorance and then become regretful for what you have done." The Quran, 49:6

And give the kindred relative his due right, and [also] the needy/poor and the traveler (who lost his money or had an accident and cannot return home), and do not spend wastefully. The Quran, 17:26



11 Islam is the Religion of Cleanliness

Islam emphasizes purity, chastity, modesty and cleanliness. You cannot worship God if you are not clean.

"...Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves (physically and spiritually)".

The Quran, 2:222

"And your clothing purify." The Quran, 74:4

11.1 Highest Hygiene Standards

Practicing Islam requires maintaining high level of personal hygiene based on the divine Message from our Creator and the wise teachings of His Messenger. Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ teachings set high standards of cleanliness and public health in Muslim societies all over the world. He was a transformational leader and an honorable educator.

Ablution every day before the five daily prayers:

Performing ablution before praying is an essential requirement for prayers. It includes washing the hands, face, forearms up to the elbows, wiping the head and washing the feet.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ emphasized cleanliness and purification in all aspects of life. He asked his companions to clean their homes and surroundings regularly. He taught them that removing

Cleanliness
and personal
hygiene

harm or garbage from the road is a charity act that is rewarded by God. Also, He urged his companions to maintain high personal hygiene and cleanliness. This is some of his sayings in this context:

- Do not touch food after waking up until hands are washed.
- Eat with your right hand and avoid using it for unclean matters.
- Trim your nails, remove pubic and armpit hair. Dress in clean and tidy clothes but do not be prodigal. Use perfumes (Teeb) to smell good.
- Performing "Ghusul" (washing the whole body) is part of Muhammad's Sunnah (teachings and way of life). However, Ghusul is a must for purity on certain occasions (e.g. after marital contact and menstruation).

Going to toilette

Muslims primarily use water (not only toilette paper) to clean themselves properly. Only left hand is used to clean private parts. Hands are washed properly after going out of the toilette.



11.2 How can the Islamic teachings protect you from catching diseases?

- **You are not to harm or to be harmed.** This is a rule of thumb in Islam. Anything that harms your body and can cause sickness to you or to others is forbidden.

Cleanliness
is next to
Godliness

- **Prevention is better than cure.** The Islamic teachings forbid all practices that could cause diseases. For example, prostitution and all types of non-marital sex are strictly forbidden in Islam. In addition, Islam introduced guidelines for lawful and clean sex. This has helped a great deal in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, HPV, Syphilis and Herpes.

① Body Immune System

Fasting strengthens your immune system

Muslims fast the whole month of Ramadan in the lunar year from sunrise to sunset. They are also encouraged to voluntarily fast few days every month. Now modern science speaks about the great benefits of **intermittent fasting**. It is a proven fact that it enhances the body immune system. Also, it helps lower cholesterol, liver fat, blood insulin and sugar levels. It improves glucose control and fat burning.

Diet and eating habits

The belly is the worst pot to fill. Small meals that satisfy hunger will be better to enhance metabolism. Should someone decided to eat more, one third of the stomach should be kept for drink and one third should be kept empty for the breath (teaching of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ).

Islam bans drinking alcohol as it can harm the liver which breaks down harmful substances in the body. Alcohol weakens the immune system and reduces the efficiency of white blood cells.

Islam is the right religion for those who like to follow a healthy lifestyle.



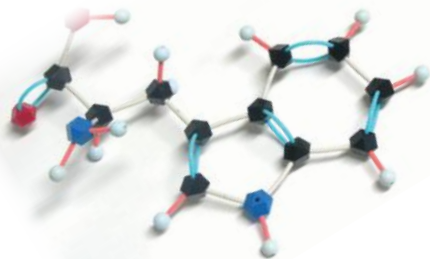
Prayers and spiritual meditation

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught Muslims to keep strong faith in Allah, the Creator, the God and the Lord of all beings. He taught them to practice their faith and maintain their daily prayers and spiritual meditation. He was a cheerful person who encouraged optimism and disliked pessimism. He used to repeat this supplication:

"Oh Allah!" I seek refuge with You from worry and grief, from incapacity and laziness, from cowardice and miserliness..."

Medical research indicates that happiness and optimism improve the cardiovascular health and the functions of the immune system. Also, prayers and supplications have great meditation effect and contribute a great deal to relieving tension, dissipating worry and getting rid of sadness, sorrow and laziness which adversely affect the immune system.

Stress, anxiety, depression and fear increase the levels of stress hormones in your body (cortisol or adrenaline) and weaken your immune system.



② Animal Meat

In order to prevent the transmission of diseases from animals to human beings, our Creator has set rules to control the types of animal meat that we can eat and the way of consuming them.

Only herbivorous animal meat can be eaten (e.g. cows, sheep, chicken and birds and others that eat no flesh).

Please note that pigs are omnivorous animals that feed on plants and animals. Many types of pigs eat dead animals and even garbage and their own droppings. Eating ham or pork is forbidden in Islam and Judaism, likewise wild animals.

In China, a strict ban on the consumption and farming of wild animals is being rolled out following the coronavirus pandemic, which is believed to have started at a wildlife market in Wuhan. Both Corona and SARS have zoonotic origin (came from animals).





Islam set (Halal) high standards for lawful killing of animals and getting the cleanest and healthiest meat for human consumption. It must be done only by a swift slaughter. The spinal cord cannot be broken.

Islam forbids electrifying, torturing and cooking animals that are still alive. This is a traditional practice in many Asian food cultures. Eating live animals or parts of live animals is forbidden in Islam and unlawful in under animal cruelty laws in many countries.

3 Infection and Plague Control

Infection control in Islam includes isolation and quarantine. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, commanded his followers not to travel to places known to be afflicted with illness and he advised those in the contaminated areas or communities not to leave their placed in order not to spread the disease further afield.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ set a high level of Islamic etiquette which covers sneezing, yawning and coughing. He also stated that ill people (especially those who got infectious diseases) should not interact with healthy people.

12 Environment Protection and Animal Welfare

The Prophet of Islam linked the preservation of the environment to belief in God who created all beings. Therefore, a believer in God must not cause harm to the environment because it is part of God's kingdom. Harming the environment and wasting or polluting its resources (water, plants, animals, soil, air, marine ecosystem, etc.) is not acceptable from an Islamic point of view.

Natural resources are in perfect equilibrium

Muhammad taught that all natural resources were created by God and were set in perfect equilibrium.

“Verily all things We created are in proportion and measure.”

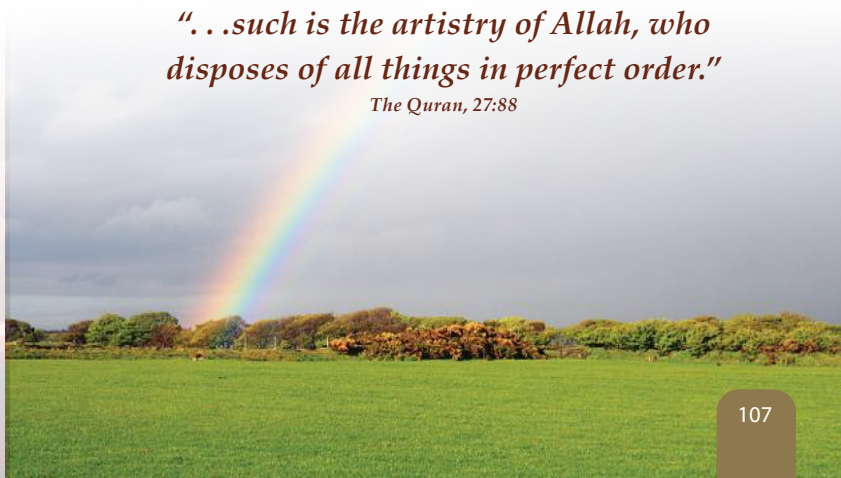
The Quran, 54:49

“... and everything with Him is in due proportion.”

The Quran, 13:8

“...such is the artistry of Allah, who disposes of all things in perfect order.”

The Quran, 27:88





You are not to harm or to be harmed

Prophet Muhammad set a general rule for protecting natural resources, preserving the environment, and securing people when he said to his companions, "You are not to harm or to be harmed." No harm is the general rule of life.

Be positive and protect the environment no matter what

Muhammad encouraged people to continuously work to safeguard our environment, even if the world is coming to an end. He said:

"If the Hour [the end of worldly life] came and someone had a seedling in his hand and he were able to plant it, then let him do it."

Narrated in Musnad Ahmad

Believers in God are required to preserve and protect the environment. God does not like those who cause corruption on earth by destroying it.

Animals and all creatures form part of a greater community of life on Earth

The Prophet Muhammad was against detaining or confining or restraining animals for no genuine reason. Also, he didn't like lashing animals or hitting them. He used different teaching styles to emphasize the spiritual call to treat animals with care and dignity.

On one occasion, Prophet Muhammad wanted to pass a message to a person regarding the good treatment of animals. He told him that his camel "complained" to him because it was loaded with more than it could bear.

And he even once told his companions, "Whoever captured the babies of this bird should return them back to their mother."

You will be rewarded for being kind to animals

A kind act, even to animals, deserves to be rewarded by God. Muhammad once told his companions the story of a thirsty man who found a well of water and went down to drink. When he went up, he found a dog gasping in thirst, so the man went down in the well again to fill his shoe with water and brought it up to the dog. God was thankful for this man's compassion and forgave his past sins.

On another occasion Muhammad told his companions that God had punished a woman because she imprisoned and confined a cat until it died. She neither fed the cat nor let it go.



13 Islam Encourages Seeking Science and Useful Knowledge

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ brought a Message of light and guidance that encouraged scientific advancement and the development in civilization.

It commenced from a divine revelation that had begun with the word "Read". Within decades, it revolutionized knowledge and all types of sciences in Arabia and the whole world.

"Read in the Name of your Lord Who created (everything), He created man from a clot (clinging to the wall of the womb)... Read ! and your Lord is the All-Munificent Who taught man by the pen... He taught man what he didn't know!" The Quran, 96:1-5

He urged his companions to utilize knowledge for the wellbeing of humanity and not to cause mischief on the earth. He linked that to God's pleasure when he said:

"That who follows a way for acquiring knowledge, God facilitates a way for him to Paradise" (Sahih Muslim, 8/71, 2699)



Say: O My Lord!
increase me in knowledge
Courtesy of Mohammed Al Hosny



"There is not an animal or creature that lives and moves on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but they are communities like you. We have not neglected anything in the Book and they [all creation] shall be gathered to their Lord in the end."

The Quran 6:38





Muslim scientists

For many centuries, Muslim scientists were the frontiers in pure and applied sciences. Arabic, the language of the Quran, became the language of sciences that were taught in full-fledged universities granting degrees in chemistry, mathematics, calculus, medicine, astronomy, geography, engineering, art and literature.

Geber

721-815 CE

Jaber Ibn Hayyan, father of chemistry. Credited for developing alchemy into an experimental science. He was the first to discover many acids such as nitric, hydrochloric and sulfuric acids.

Algoritmi

780-850 CE

Mohammad Al-Khwarizmi, Father of Algorithms. Known as Algoritmi. He developed Algebra (derived from the word Al-Jabr) and "algorithms" which were named after him.

Al Jazari

1136-1206 CE

He is best known for writing the "Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices" where he described fifty mechanical devices along with instructions on how to construct them.

Rhases (Rasis)

865-929 CE

Abu Bakr Al-Razi, father of physicians Credited for discovering numerous compounds and chemicals including alcohol and kerosene.

The words: read, think, learn, observe, explore, understand, ponder, contemplate, and reflect are frequently mentioned in the Quran. These behaviors will increase your knowledge and open your mind. The world is full of signs around us. The more you realize them, the more evidence you will get which will lead you to one fact; there is one Creator for this universe who created us for a noble cause.



Avicenna

980-1037 CE

Al-Hussein Ibn Sina, father of Modern Medicine. Avicenna's two most important works are: Shifa (The Book of Healing) and Al Qanun Fi-Tibb (The Canon of Medicine). The Canon is a 14-volume book, which classifies and describes diseases, and outlines their assumed causes. It was a standard medical text in Europe for seven centuries.

read

think

learn

observe

explore

reflect

Note:

The Quran refers to numerous scientific facts that came inline with many scientific discoveries. Read more about these facts in chapter 6.





14 Islam Established a Universal Civilization That Benefited the Whole Humanity

"Civilization" can be defined as the advanced stage of development and organization a society reaches through a process of improvement in all aspects of life such as social, economic, intellectual, scientific as well as technological advancements and innovations.

The Islamic civilization is based on a religion that calls for superiority in morals and good behavior. In the same time it encourages seeking knowledge and developing sciences and inventions. It is embraced by people of different races, languages and cultures from all over the globe. This global civilization permitted people of diverse ethnic backgrounds to work together in cultivating various sciences and arts.

Without a doubt, the Islamic civilization was a turning point in the history of humanity. It is credited for genuine advancements in science and most aspects of life. These advancements covered mathematics (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus), science (medicine, optics, anatomy, chemistry, astronomy, physics, engineering, architecture and agriculture), philosophy, social sciences, education and welfare systems, art, calligraphy and poetry.





Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt:

Established in 971 CE, connected with one of the oldest operating universities in the world (opened 988 CE).



The Islamic architecture, art and calligraphy is an important source of inspiration for modern architecture. In addition, the Islamic architectural heritage left many major tourist attraction in the world such as Taj Mahal in India, Alhambra palace in Spain and many mosques in different parts of the world.





The Great Mosque of Córdoba held a place of importance amongst the Islamic community of al-Andalus for three centuries.

The Great Mosque was constructed in 785 CE on the orders of Abd al-Rahman-I, founder of the Islamic Caliphate in Spain.



The Great Mosque of Cordoba - Spain
From the inside



Moroccan Architecture

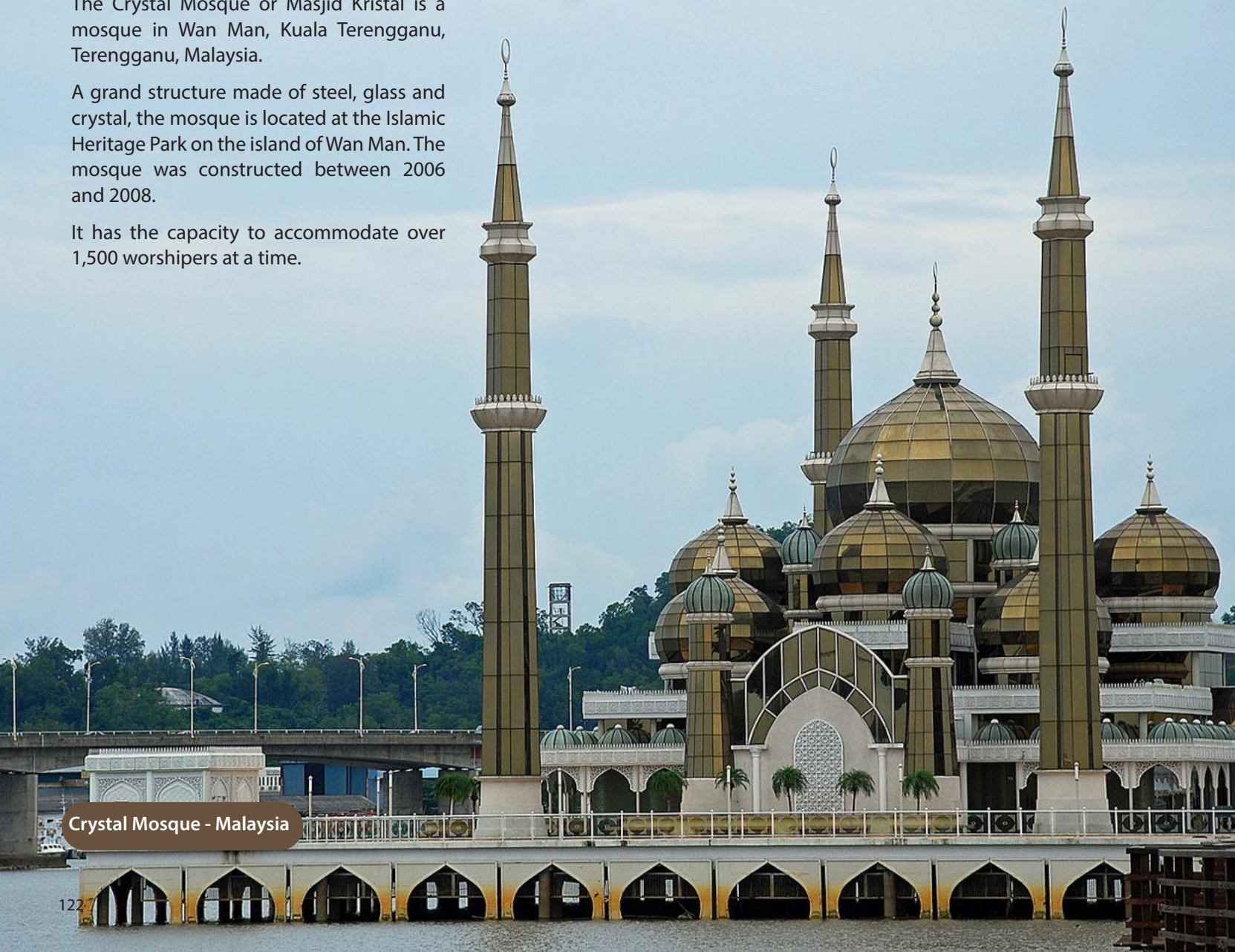


The Grand Mosque Hassan II in Casablanca

The Crystal Mosque or Masjid Kristal is a mosque in Wan Man, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia.

A grand structure made of steel, glass and crystal, the mosque is located at the Islamic Heritage Park on the island of Wan Man. The mosque was constructed between 2006 and 2008.

It has the capacity to accommodate over 1,500 worshippers at a time.

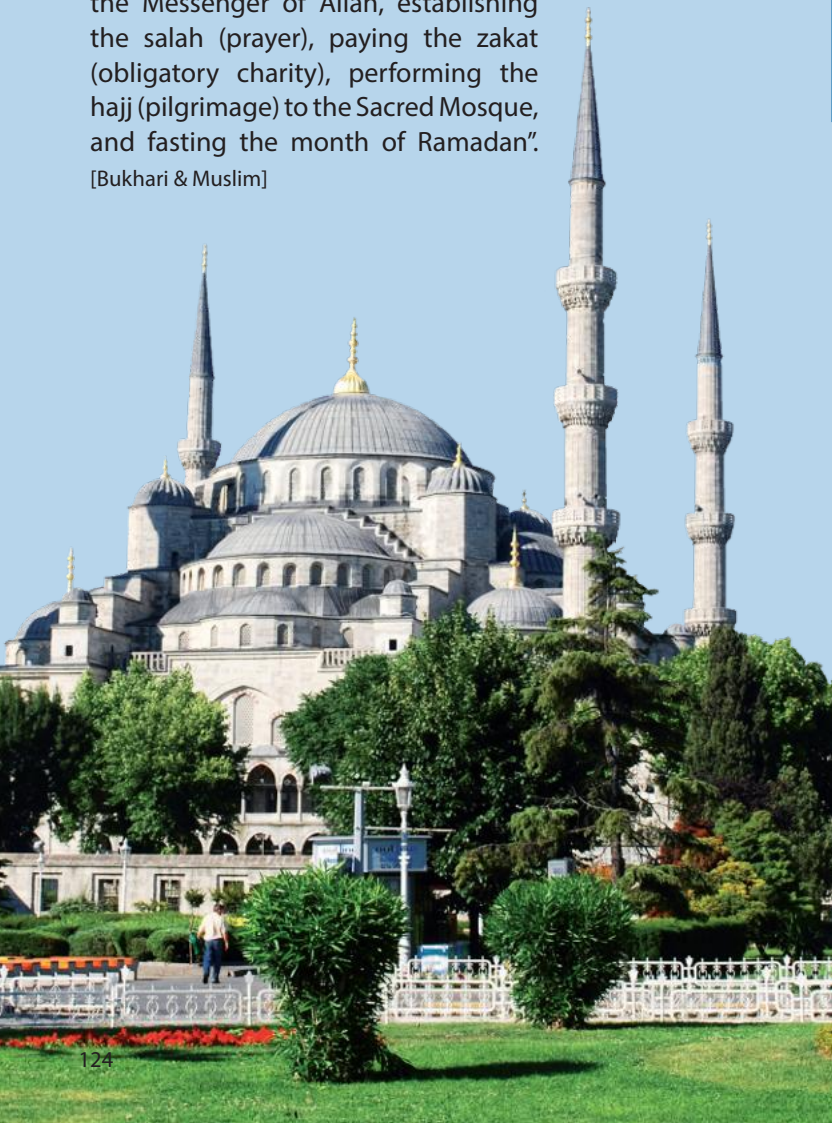


Crystal Mosque - Malaysia

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“Islam is built on five pillars: testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing the salah (prayer), paying the zakat (obligatory charity), performing the hajj (pilgrimage) to the Sacred Mosque, and fasting the month of Ramadan”.

[Bukhari & Muslim]



WORSHIP IN ISLAM

5

1 The Five Pillars of Islam

There are five pillars of “worship” in Islam. In order to become a Muslim, you should acknowledge all five pillars. They are commonly known as the five pillars of Islam.

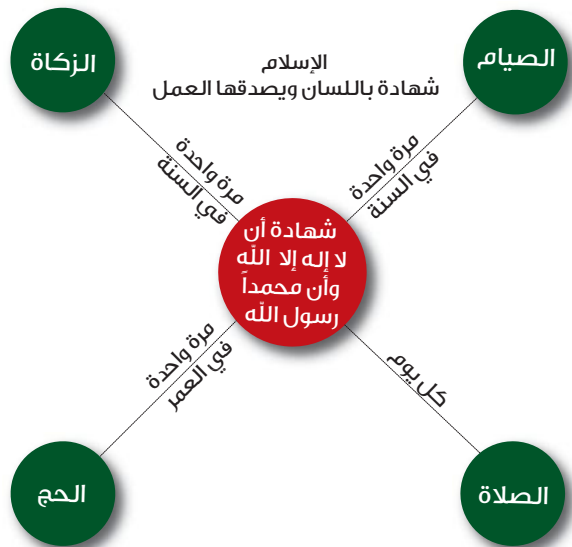
5 Pillars
of Islam

1	Shahadah Testimonial of faith	Uttering the creed of Islam (there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah).
2	Salat Prayers	Performing daily prescribed prayers.
3	Zakat Alms Giving	Paying alms as charity once a year.
4	Siyam Fasting	Fasting for the lunar month of Ramadan.
5	Hajj Pilgrimage	Pilgrimage to the Sacred Mosque (the House of God) in Makkah once in a lifetime for those who have the physical and financial ability.

These are the rites and acts of worship mentioned under Shariah.



How can someone embrace Islam? By uttering / saying the testimonial of faith (Shahada) as well as acknowledging and establishing the pillars of Islam.



① Shahada

It means uttering (verbally saying):
"I bear witness there is no God but Allah and I bear witness Muhammad is the messenger of Allah). In Arabic it is spelled "Ash'hado an la Ilaha illa Allah, Wa Ash'hado anna Muhammadan rasoolo'Allah".



The first part of Shahada is witnessing that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (exalted be He). It also implies the declaration of monotheism (i.e. the oneness of God).

The second part of Shahada is witnessing that Muhammad is a true Messenger of Allah who brought the final divine Book. It also implies the belief in all previous true prophets and messengers of Allah. The final divine Book is the culmination of all pervious divine Books.

Islam is the most efficient religion that connects you to one God (Our Creator) without the noise of polytheism.

② Salat, Prescribed Daily Prayers

Prayer (*salat*) in Islam is the main act of worship that enables the individual to get intimately close to God. There are five daily-prescribed prayers in Islam that are distributed during the whole day. The essence of worship is based on three elements, first to glorify, exalt, and praise God with one's heart, tongue, and body. Second, to communicate with Him and ask for His guidance and support. Third, to repent to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Islam..
Faith in
Practice

Praying five times a day may seem excessive to some people. In reality, it is a type of meditation that does not take in total more than forty minutes a day. Just as we must eat several times a day to gain nourishment, so too must we spiritually nourish our souls. Doing salat at spaced intervals throughout the day provides such spiritual nourishment and provides good time control.

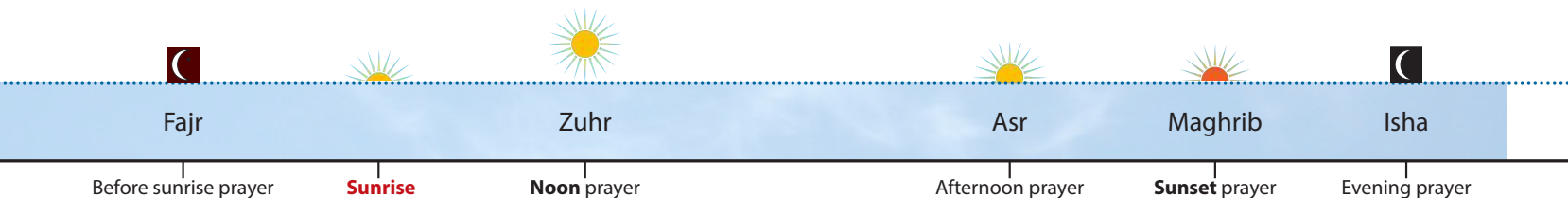
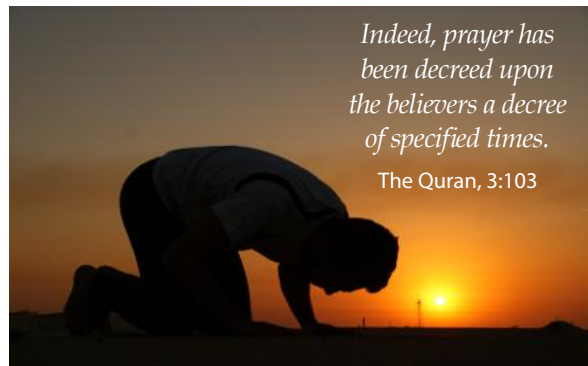
In fact, the word salat literally means "connection." It is a practical demonstration of faith. Each prayer includes physical movements of bowing and prostrating to God. Prayers show progressively increasing levels of submission to Allah. It requires full concentration and isolation from worldly matters. Prophet Muhammad said: "a person becomes closest to God during prostration."

Powerful
Meditation



*Indeed, prayer has
been decreed upon
the believers a decree
of specified times.*

The Quran, 3:103



③ Zakat, Alms giving



Zakat is an essential pillar of Islam. It means giving alms (paying a charity) once every year to poor, needy, and other rightful beneficiaries as stipulated in the Glorious Quran. It is specified that 2.5% of excess personal wealth must be given.

2.5%
of Annual
Net Savings

Zakat cleanses ones' heart from greed and removes hatred and jealousy from the hearts of the poor. It fosters social integration, collaboration, compassion, and respect. It enhances the well-being of the whole society and achieves social justice.

And establish prayer and give zakah, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is Seeing.

The Quran, 2:110



Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakah] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler - an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise.

The Quran, 9:60

④ Siyam, Fasting in Ramadan

Muslims are required to fast for the whole lunar month of Ramadan (29 or 30 days), from the break of dawn to sunset. During the fasting time, Muslims are required to abstain from eating, drinking, and sexual contact while practicing a normal life.



Fasting for the sake of Allah helps to acknowledge that the sustenance which may be taken for granted actually comes directly from Allah.

When people feel the pangs of hunger, they experience the suffering needy people go through. The rich will be more inclined to give to charity when they fast. This builds up a relationship between the rich and the poor and helps build social harmony.

Fasting enables one to curb the inner desires, learn self-control, and, in doing so, achieve better spiritual development. Fasting has many health benefits and doctors recommend it to cure some diseases.

Lunar Months	
1	Al-Muharram
2	Safar
3	Rabi' Al-Awal
4	Rabi' Al-Akharah
5	Jumada Al-Oula
6	Jumada Al-Akharah
7	Rajab
8	Sha'ban
9	Ramadan
10	Shawwal
11	Zul Qui'da
12	Zul Hijjah



"And pilgrimage to Allah's House of worship is a duty owed to Allah by people who are able to undertake it".

The Glorious Quran: 3: 97

🕌 Hajj , Pilgrimage to Makkah

Hajj is the pilgrimage to Makkah at the lunar month of Zul-Hijjah with the intention to visit the Sacred Mosque (House of Allah) and perform certain rites in and outside the Sacred Mosque.

It is the fifth pillar of Islam that must be done once in a lifetime by all Muslims who have reached the age of puberty, provided they have the financial and physical ability to do it. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Whoever performs Hajj and does not commit any obscenity and wrongdoing, he / she will come out as the day he, / she was born, pure and free from sins." (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim)

The Prophet taught people how to perform Hajj, which contain many rites related to Prophet Abraham. This section, covers only Tawaf and Sa'ee. For more details about Hajj, please refer to Muhammad Hajj Guide.

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ performed Hajj, he circumambulated the Kaabah, i.e. walked around it in circles. This is commonly known "Tawaf". Circumambulation is performed seven times and goes counterclockwise as an act of submission to God, which is also harmonious with the motion of the planets and even the electrons. Then Muhammad prayed behind Abraham's station. Currently it is an enclosure that contains Abraham's footprint on a piece of rock. Muslims call it Maqam Ibrahim.

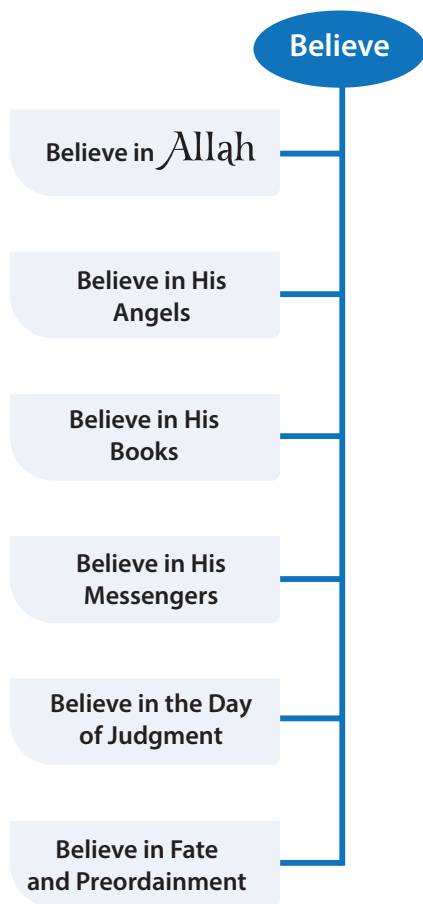


Then he walked between the Safa and Marwa hills, the same place Hagar walked thousands of years ago searching for water after her husband Abraham left her there with their son Ishmael. Abraham asked her to stay there as an act of obedience and submission to God's Command Who wanted the place to become a sanctuary and a place of worship.



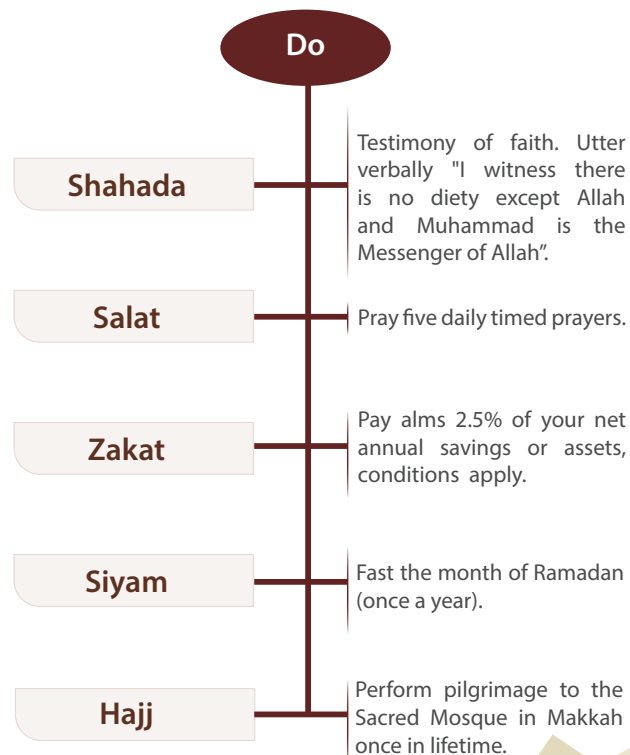
The Islamic Creed

The six articles of faith



The Pillars of Islam

The five mandatory rites of worship



Note:

The six articles of faith represent the foundation of worship in Islam. Remember: Islam is believe and do. Acts of worship are "Do".

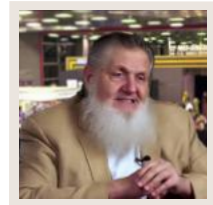
Simplified
Picture of
practicing
Islam

WHY DID THEY EMBRACE ISLAM?

6

Yusuf Estes, USA

Ex-Minister of Music and Worship,
First Baptist Church, Trussville



Yusuf Estes (born Joseph Estes, 1944) is an American preacher from Texas who converted from Christianity to Islam in 1991.

He and his father were involved in business with a Muslim businessman from Egypt which triggered discussions about Islam. At that time, he was very surprised to know that Islam encompasses all past true revelations including the Torah and the Bible. It acknowledges all the true prophets and Messengers such as Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

In addition he did not know that Muslims have one version of the Quran preserved in Arabic language that has been memorized from cover to cover and recited in its original language for the last fourteen hundred years. This seemed not possible to him. Original languages of the Bible are rarely spoken worldwide. In 2012, Estes was named as the Islamic Personality of the Year at the Dubai International Holy Quran Award ceremony.



We took the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh and his soldiers pursued them in tyranny and enmity until, when drowning overtook him in the sea, he said: "I believe that there is no deity except that in whom the Children of Israel believed, and I am of the Muslims (i.e. who submitted to Him)."

God said: "Is it now you declare belief in Me! But before this you were of the corrupters! So today We will save your body so you will be a Sign for those who succeed you. Indeed, many people are unaware [unmindful] of Our Signs.

The Quran, 10:75-92



Maurice Bucaille, France

Maurice Bucaille (1920-1998) was a French medical doctor and a surgeon by profession.



He led the team who examined the mummy of the Pharaoh of exodus which was transferred from Egypt to France when François Mitterrand was the President.

The salt remnants in his body was an evidence that he was taken out of the sea immediately after drowning. His body was embalmed (treated with chemicals) to preserve it.

In 1974, the mummy of Ramesses II was sent to Paris for examination and study. Bucaille led a team of French scientists in examining the mummy.

Bucaille's findings surprisingly matched the Quran, 10:92. The body of Pharaoh was saved and mummified after he drowned in the sea. What Bucaille found was a turning point that led him to become interested in studying the Quran.

In 1976, Bucaille published his book, *The Bible, The Qur'an and Science*, which highlighted the fact the Quran contains no statements contradicting established scientific facts.





Dr. Wilfried Hofmann (Murad), Germany

He was born as Catholic in northwest Bavaria in Germany in 1931. He completed his legal studies at Munich University where he received a doctorate in jurisprudence in 1957. Then he received another degree from Harvard Law School in 1960. He served as the director of information at NATO (1983-1987) then he became the German Ambassador to Algeria (1987-1990) then to Morocco (1990-1994).



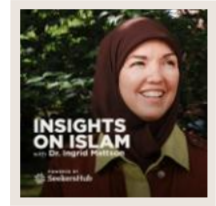
He embraced Islam in 1980 after a long journey of reasoning and reading the Glorious Quran. He says the Quran showed him the most eloquent, most straight forward, the most abstract concept of God. He found it difficult for him to accept that the mankind is burdened with the “original sin” and people need intercession” by saints to repent to God. He found the answer to his dilemma in the Glorious Quran, 53:38 *“no bearer of burdens shall bear the burdens of another”*.

Dr. Hofmann wrote several books about Islam and its place in the West. In 1992, he wrote his famous book “Islam the Alternative”.



Ingrid Mattson, Canada

Ingrid Mattson was born in 1963 in Ontario, Canada. She attended Catholic schools then graduated from the University of Waterloo in Canada 1987 with a bachelor of Philosophy and Fine Arts.



As part of her course of study, she spent the summer of 1986 with west African students who were from the Muslim community.

Her proximity to them and from their daily practicing to their religion attracted her to learn more about Islam. On reading the Quran, Ingrid found a distinctive awareness of God never experienced before. The universal calls of God in the Glorious Quran were enough to bring her to faith after long contemplation.

Ingrid embraced Islam in 1987 at the age of 23 years old. She decided to complete her post graduate studies until she received her PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago in 1999.

Her book, *“The Story of The Quran: Its history and place in Muslim Life”* was chosen in 2012 by the National Endowment for the Humanities for inclusion in its “Bridging Cultures” program.





Diam's, France

Diam's, whose real name is Mélanie Georgiades, born on July 25, 1980 in Nicosia (Cyprus), is a French rapper, singer, singer-songwriter. In 1994, she started her first band with a friend, who introduced her to composition. In 1999, she released her first album, Premier Mandat.



Diam's released in 2003 his second album, Brut de femme, which is quickly certified gold; she won a Victoire de la musique for the best rap album of 2004. In 2006, she made the album Dans ma bulle, which contains the hit single La Boulette.

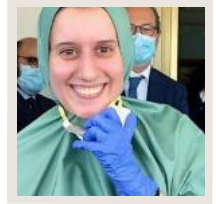
In 2006, she received a gold record for La Boulette, as well as a platinum record. She is rewarded with a diamond disc, in 2007, for the album Dans ma bulle. His fourth album, SOS, is released in 2009.

After her conversion to Islam, she puts an end to her artistic career and appears with the jilbab. She publishes Autobiography in 2012, and Mélanie, French and Muslim, in 2015.



Silvia Romano, Italy

In November 2018, Italian aid worker Silvia Romano was kidnapped in northeast Kenya then she was taken to Somalia to spend eighteen months under captivity.



During her stay in Somalia, she used to hear the Muslim call for the prayer (Athaan) from her captivity room. The Athaan triggered her interest to learn about Islam. She was lucky to get an Italian translation for the Quran and read it several times.

In May 2020, and with the help of Turkish intelligence, Silvia was freed and returned to Rome. She was greeted by Italy's prime minister and foreign minister after she landed in Rome, but she surprised everybody by declaring her embracement of Islam.

Silvia stated that the kidnappers did not harm her but she spent hard days in Somalia due to the civil war there. Her solitary confinement gave her the opportunity to understand the divine messages in the Quran.





Sophie Petronin, France

Sophie Petronin, a French doctor and a specialist in nutritional sciences, runs a French charity. She went to the Republic of Mali to help malnourished children and work in evangelizing people of other religions and non-believers. She was kidnapped by an armed group on 12/24/2016 and remained in captivity for four years. However, God chose the path of Islam for her, so she embraced Islam and named herself Maryam.



"... perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you..." The Quran 2:216

The French government worked seriously and led negotiations with the kidnappers. The negotiations ended with paying a ransom estimated at 13 million Euros for the release of Sophie Petronin. On Friday 10/9/2020, Sophie arrived in Paris and the French President Emmanuel Macron was waiting for her. However, to the astonishment of everyone, Sophie Petronin stated that she had embraced Islam and chose the name Maryam for herself. Maryam Petronin said she had a spiritual experience during her captivity, and she is considering returning to Mali to live there.

The number of Muslims in France is estimated at six million. 3.5% of the French military embraced Islam, which has become the second religion in France since the 1960s.

The French newspaper "Le Monde" reported on the reasons why some French people embrace Islam. It summarized the reasons as those who became Muslims were looking for spiritual fulfillment. The newspaper attributed the reason for the spread of Islam in France since the nineteenth century to the contact that took place between French intellectuals and subjects of the colonized countries.

Le Monde pointed out that Islam creates a new spirit in the souls of its adherents after they had lived a life full of intellectual stagnation, spiritual emptiness, and dominated by a material lifestyle steeped in worldly pleasures.





Joram Van Klaveren, Holland

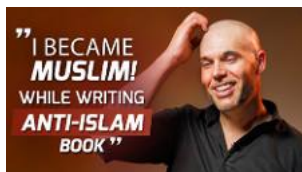
Van Klaveren was born on 23 January 1979 in Amsterdam. He is a Dutch politician who was a member of the Party for Freedom (PVV) which is led by Geert Wilders. He was a Member of Parliament from 17 June 2010 until 21 March 2014. After leaving PVV, together with Louis Bontes and Johan Driessen, they founded a new conservative political party called For the Netherlands (VNL).



He became well-known for anti-Muslim comments. In October 2018, he converted to Islam halfway through writing an anti-Islam book. After becoming a Muslim, he decided to rededicate his book to his search for religiosity and the subsequent conversion to Islam. His book titled Apostate: From Christianity to Islam in times of secularization and terror was published in both Dutch and English.

Van Klaveren is not the first high-profile PVV member to convert to Islam. He follows in the footsteps of Arnoud van Doorn, a former Hague-based PVV city councilor who converted in 2013

It is worth mentioning that the leader of PVV Geert Wilders was behind the production of a 17-min film against Islam called "Fitna" in 2008. Two members left his party and converted to Islam.



Simon Paul Collis, UK

Ex-British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Mr. Simon (born in 1956) is a former British ambassador to several Middle Eastern countries before retiring from diplomatic service in February 2020. Collis was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, from 1967 until 1973 and at Christ's College, Cambridge.



From 2000 to 2004 he was Consul-General in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He was Consul General in Basra between 2004 and 2005. He was British Ambassador to Qatar 2005–07, and British Ambassador to Syria 2007–2012. He left Syria in February 2012, after the British Government withdrew their staff there. He was British Ambassador to Iraq from 2012 until September 2014. He became the British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on 3 February 2015

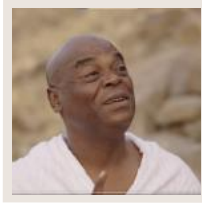
In 2016, Collis became the first UK ambassador to perform the Islamic pilgrimage of Hajj after converting to Islam. In 2020, Collis retired as ambassador to Saudi Arabia and from diplomatic service.





Abraham Richmond, South Africa

Abraham Richmond, is a 55-year old Christian priest who lead the congregation of more than 100,000 Christians at the Corinthian Church of South Africa for 15 years. In his small apartment at the Church he saw a dream in which he heard a voice urging him to instruct his congregation to dress white and put white covers on their heads. Initially dismissing it as a mere dream, the voice persisted, growing stronger and more insistent with each occurrence. When the dream got repeated several times, he felt that there is a divine message behind it.



Richmond said to himself: "it's Muslim clothing. It's a dream for sure. But I saw the dream again...and again. Abraham felt compelled to share his dream with his devoted followers. By the second meeting all accepted the invitation without hard objections.

They all chose to embark on a transformative journey by embracing Islam. The next gathering was a sight to behold, as each congregant arrived dressed in white dress, symbolizing their newfound faith. With unwavering determination, Abraham led them in reciting the testimony of Islam, their voices echoing in harmony, creating a miraculous scene that touched the hearts of all who witnessed it.

He added: "The attendees were supporting my words and repeating them. Thousands of voices saying the same words, reciting the Shahada with me".

Abraham's remarkable story spread rapidly across social media, captivating the hearts and minds of people worldwide. His Hajj pilgrimage this season became a testament to his unwavering devotion and the transformative power of faith.

He came to Makkah as a guest of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Guests Program. He was among 4,951 pilgrims from over 90 countries who performed the pilgrimage as guests of the Kingdom.

Speaking on Friday June 23 at the Mount of Light (Jabal Al-Nour) in Makkah, where the Cave of Hira is located, Abraham said: "The Prophet Muhammad was alone when he climbed this [mountain]. And I will be following in his steps. He added: "I'm the first one in my family who touches this soil. From this mountain, the light of Islam started to shine".

I'm extremely happy and lucky because I had this opportunity in my life. There are no opportunities after leaving this world."



An Arabic anecdote attributed to a Bedouin shepherd says:

"If footprints on the ground indicate the one who walked on it, and a dropping of a camel indicates that it came from a camel, then a sky of constellated stars, an earth of vast pathways and oceans of huge waves should indicate the existence of God".

YOU AND YOUR CREATOR

7

Within one hundred years, nearly all people will die and get replaced with new generations.

God made life on the earth temporal and short. He also made it a test for humankind. The purpose of life is to pass this test. First, by acknowledging our Creator and worshipping Him alone.

Second, by doing as much as possible good deeds and useful works that construct the earth, add value to humanity and to the whole world.

The Quran alerts people about their departure of this world and encourages them to do good deeds and refrain from all indecencies and wrong doing.

100 YEARS



Man says: Show me and I will trust you.

God says: Trust Me and I will show you.



What is your Mission and Vision in your life ?

Do you need to refresh your memory about the difference between mission and vision statements? A mission statement declares an organization's purpose, or why it exists? The vision statement describes where the organization or the company aspires to be in the future. Here are few examples:-



Google

Mission: To organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful.

Vision: To provide access to the world's information in one click.

SAMSUNG

Samsung

Mission: Inspire the world with our innovative technologies, products and design that enrich people's lives and contribute to social prosperity by creating a new future.

Vision: Inspire the world. Create the future.



IKEA

Mission: Offer a wide range of well-designed, functional home furnishing products at prices so low that as many people as possible will be able to afford them.

Vision: To create a better everyday life for the many people.

TESLA

TESLA

Mission: To accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy.



Vision: To create the most compelling car company of the 21st century by driving the world's transition to electric vehicles.

What is the mission of a human being on earth? What should his core values and vision be?

If you recognized the wisdom behind your creation and existence on earth, what do you think your vision and mission statements will be?

If you live for 80 years with an average sleep time of six to eight hours a day, then what is your net productive time (knowing that you lose 20 to 26.6 years in sleeping)?



This is an example of a personal vision and missions of someone who recognised the purpose of life and believed in his creator, Allah, almighty blessed his name.

Vision

Reach God's satisfaction about my input in His Kingdom and attain His Paradise as my last shelter.



My Mission

Mission 1: Add value to myself and to the entire world until the last moment in my life.

Mission 2: Leave a legacy that benefits the whole world by aligning my work and daily actions with the Commandments of our Creator.

Mission 3: Specialize in a profession that benefits the humanity and leaves a legacy of goodness.

Mission 4: Invest every minute in my temporal life in acts of goodness and virtuous behaviors that are inspired by God's light of Guidance.

What would
GOD
say to
YOU

if you **accept**
^{His} MESSAGE?





But as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards, and Allah does not like the wrongdoers.

The Quran 3:57

In fact, in the Quran, there are many calls to the believers and the people of the Book (Jews and Christians). The divine calls to the believers define God's Commandments, what is lawful and what is not. It sets a road map for them that guarantees a decent life for them and salvation in the hereafter.

It showed them the straight path to be winners. That is a promise from God. Who is more able to fulfill a promise than God?

O you who have believed! Bow and prostrate and worship your Lord and do good - that you may succeed. *The Quran 22:77*

But they who believe and do righteous deeds - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally. *The Quran 2:88*



What would
GOD
say to
YOU
if you **reject**
His MESSAGE?



There is no compulsion in the religion

If you reject the "Divine Message" during your life, God says to you:

There is no compulsion in [accepting] the religion. Truth stands out clear from error The right course has become clear from the wrong.

So whoever rejects evil and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. God is All Hearing and All Knowing.

The Quran, 2:256

We certainly diversified in this Quran from every [kind of] example for all people; but the human being is the most contentious creature.

The Quran, 18:54

Your whole life is actually the time you have to take your decision. But no one knows when he or she will die.

In fact, **God does not speak to** those who rejected His Message except on the Day of Judgment. On that day, God says to them:

O you who have disbelieved! Make no excuses today. You will be only recompensed for what you used to do. The Quran, 66:7

Appendices



Sultan Omar Ali Safi Al-Din
Mosque - Brunei

- 1 Prophet Muhammad, ﷺ Brief Biography.
- 2 The Prophecy of Muhammad ﷺ in the Bible .
- 3 How to Embrace Islam?
- 4 Important Websites to Learn about Islam.
- 5 Islam in One Table, a Quick Reference.

1 Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Brief Biography

Personal Details

Name	Muhammad ﷺ
Father's Name	Abdullah, son of Abdul-Muttalib (ancestry reaches back to the Prophet Ishmael son of Prophet Abraham).
Surname (Clan)	He was from Bani-Hashim family (Bani-Hashim was from Quraysh, a tribe that was highly ranked in Arabia).
Date of Birth	570 CE
Place of Birth	City of Mecca (Makkah) – Arabian Peninsula (currently in Saudi Arabia).
Date of Death	632-633 CE Approximately. He was 63 years old when he passed away.
Death & Burial Place	City of Madinah (about 450 km north of Makkah).



Childhood & Adolescence

Birth - 2 years old	Muhammad had no brothers or sisters. His father passed away before he was born. His mother sent him out of Makkah to be breast-fed by a wet nurse called Halima (this was an old Arab custom).
2-6 years old	He lived with his mother "Aaminah" until she passed away in the year 576 CE.
6-8 years old	He lived with his grandfather Abdul-Muttalib until he passed away.
8-25 years old	He lived with his paternal uncle (Abu-Talib), who had 10 children.

Education

Muhammad ﷺ was illiterate: He could not read or write. He never lived outside Makkah or sought foreign knowledge. Muslims believe that Muhammad ﷺ did not write or author the "Quran". He conveyed it (as Allah's Message to humanity) letter by letter and word by word without rephrasing any part of it with his own words.

Muhammad's sayings and teachings were not mixed with the Quran: They were collected in books which are called "Hadith or the Sunnah of the Prophet", which means his teachings, way of life and explanation of the Book (The Quran).





Working Life

Childhood – mid twenties	He worked as a shepherd for some time (looking after sheep and goats for others). In addition, he worked in trading with his uncle Abu-Talib. According to authentic narrations, Muhammad was 12 years old when he, for the first time, joined his uncle Abu-Talib in a trading trip to Syria.
Mid twenties - 40 years old	He worked as a merchant or a trader for a wealthy woman called Khadijah, who had a general trading business (they used to buy commodities from one area and sell them in another). He was famous for his fidelity, integrity and trustworthiness. It was not long before he earned the title of “As-Sadiqul Ameen”, which means “the truthful and the trustworthy”.
40-63 years old	When he was 40 years old (year 610 CE) Muhammad received the divine revelation and dedicated his life to conveying God’s Message to all people. He taught people the oneness of God and conveyed God’s Book (The Quran), which calls for social justice, peace, harmony and wellbeing.



Marital Status

Married to one wife for 25 years: Muhammad married Khadijah, the daughter of Khuwaylid, who came from a noble family called Asad.

She was a respected woman in her community and she was a widow. Muhammad worked for her for two years before she proposed marriage to him through a third party. She found him a very loyal, transparent and an ethical person.

Successful marriage: Although Khadijah was 15 years older than Muhammad, both of them came from a similar social class in the community.

The age difference was no obstacle to the establishment of a successful marriage, which lasted for 25 years until Khadijah died in the year 619 CE at the age of 65. Muhammad remarried after Khadijah passed away.

A father of 6 children and a family man: Muhammad & Khadijah lived in harmony and peace; they had four daughters (Zaynab, Ruqayya, Um Kulthoum & Fatima) and two sons (Al-Qasim, who died when he was 3 years old and Abdullah, who died at the age of 4). Muhammad used to spend time with his family, help his wife in house matters, sew his own clothes and look after his children.

Muhammad loved Khadijah and was loyal to her

On several occasions he described her as the best woman of her time alike to Mariam (Mary) the mother of Isa (Jesus), who was the best woman of her time. *(Narrated by Bukhari)*

2 The Prophecy of Muhammad ﷺ in the Bible

The prophecy of Muhammad ﷺ in the Bible is acknowledged by some western writers and clergymen but denied by others. Some researchers see that Genesis 21 (Paragraph 17 and 18) refer explicitly to Ishmael, the son of Abraham that God will make his descendants a great nation. In fact, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is from his descendants and his nation became a great nation.

When Jesus, the son of Mary, said: "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad".

The Quran 61:6

Who is the descendant of Ishmael the son of Abraham, in the Torah and the Bible?



God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called Hagar from heaven and said to her: "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.

Margaret King states in her book "Unveiling the Messiah in the Dead Sea Scrolls" that the eleventh paragraph in Revelation (19) refers to Muhammad.

And I saw the heaven opened ... and I behold a white horse... Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war."

She says there is no prophet who judged in justice, fought injustice and had the title of "the honest and faithful" "Assadeq Al-Amin" except Muhammad ﷺ.

Margaret King was convinced that the early Byzantine Church cut out sections of historical texts related to the crucifixion of Jesus. She tried to solve that mystery by reconstructing the deleted passages and connecting the Dead Sea Scrolls to the New Testament Gospels.



Rabbi Mort Javidi from the Synagogue (Mahi), presented selected glad tidings for the coming of a prophet who is a descendent from Ishmael. He concluded that these prophecies refer to the prophet of Islam Muhammad.

1 Muhammad and the land of Paran

And he said: The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Deuteronomy 33:2

Rabbi Mort says the land of Paran is the land of Ishmael and his descendants are the Arabs. It refers to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Note: Chapter 95 "Sura Al-Teen" in the Quran refers to three different sites that received the revelations of God. The land of figs and olives (where God sent Jesus the son of Mary), Mount Sinai (where God spoke to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments), and Makkah (described the safe land in which God sent Muhammad and revealed His final Message).

2 Muhammadim is Prophet Muhammad

Also, Rabbi Mort refers to paragraph 16 of chapter 5 in the Book "the Song of Songs" that Muhammad was mentioned explicitly in it, despite some attempts to hide his name by translating it's meaning.

"O daughters of Jerusalem! His mouth is the sweetest. He is Muhammadim. This is my beloved and this is my friend" Song of Songs, 5:16

(His mouth means his words and Muhammadim was changed to "he is all together beloved or desirable").

3 The House of Glory is the House of God at the Sacred Mosque in Makkah

Rabbi Mort points out in the passage in (Isaiah 60: 7), the Lord says:

"All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious House".

(In some translations, the word flock is translated sheep. Nebaioth is the son of Ishmael. Altar is a raised area in a house of worship where people can honor God with offerings and sacrifices).

Rabbi Mort says the Glorious House or the House of Glory can only be the honorable Kaabah that Abraham built with his son Ishmael.

Muslims from all over the world come for pilgrimage to the House of God. After finishing religious rites they slaughter sheep and provide them as sacrifices to God. They feed the poor and needy people.



4 The Gentiles and Prophet Muhammad

"The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings shall come to the brightness of your rising"
Isaiah: 60:3

Rabbi Mort states that the word "Gentile" which was translated into "Nations" in some biblical translations, actually means the non-Jews who did not receive a divine revelation or a divine book from God.

The Arabs can be described as gentiles and an illiterate nation in the context that they did not receive any divine revelation and they did not have a divine book.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to them and led them from the darkness of ignorance to the light of guidance. Then, leaders of many tribes and kings of many nations in different parts of the world embraced Islam.

Note: The Jews do not explicitly mention the name of "God" out of respect and reverence for his name, but rather they say (HaShem).

3 How to embrace Islam?

If you believe in God Allah almighty who created you and submit to His Commandments, then you are prepared to be a Muslim.

To embrace Islam as a religion and a way of life you must first utter / say the testimonial of faith (Shahada)

"I bear witness there is no God but Allah and I bear witness Muhammad is the messenger of Allah).

This testimonial of faith implies acknowledging the articles of faith (Islamic creed) and establishing the pillars of Islam (i.e. performing daily prayers, paying Zakat, fasting Ramadan and making the intention to perform pilgrimage to the Sacred Mosque in Makkah at least once in a lifetime).

4 Recommended sites and references about Islam

Most main Islamic centers in each country have good websites that provide a brief overview about Islam. We do not intend to exclude anyone, but this is a brief selected list:

www.guidetoislam.com

<https://www.discoverislam.com>

www.ipc.org.kw

www.islamhouse.com

<http://savesouls.net>





5 Islam in One Table

A quick reference

1. Definition of Islam

Islam is the religion of monotheism. It carries a universal Message and a concluding Divine Book from the Lord of people (Who created them) to all people. When embraced, Islam becomes a prosperous way of life and establishes a universal civilization.

2. Deity / Concept of God

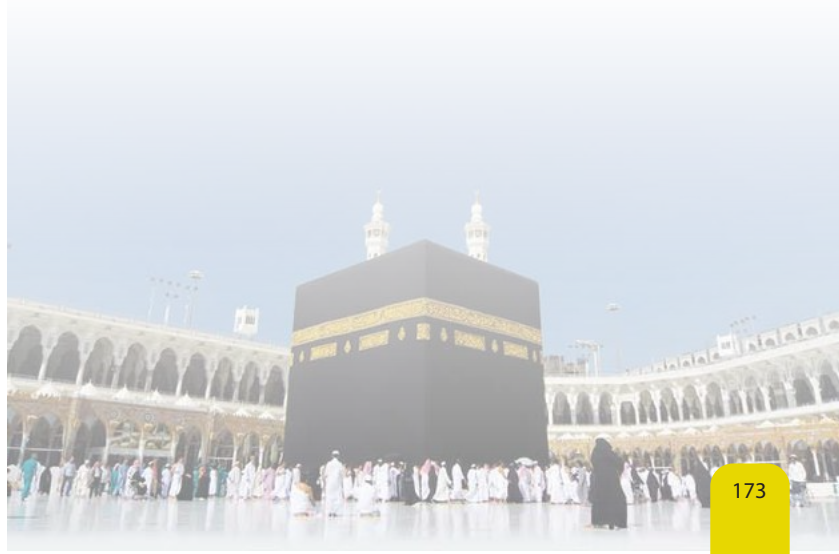
Muslims believe in one God who created the Universe and all beings. They worship Him alone without associating any partners with Him. His name is Allah (pronounced with a long vowel, Allaah). There is no God or deity except Him. No one is worthy to be worshipped except Him. He neither has partners nor children. He alone controls the whole universe and He alone gives life to all living creatures. To Him all people will return after their death.

3. Meanings of Islam

(1) Islam means submission and devotion to One God (Allah almighty) Who created all beings.
(2) Islam means achieving peace within you and giving peace to others. According to these meanings, Islam is the religion of all Prophets and Messengers God sent to humanity.

4. Prophet of Islam

His name is Muhammad (571-632) ﷺ CE). Born and raised in Makkah, Arabian Peninsula. He came from a noble Arab tribe called (Quraysh). He led an ethical and ordinary life and he was known in his community as the truthful and the trustworthy. He never worshipped idols even though idol worship was common in a polytheistic society. He did not plan or chose to be a prophet but he was selected by God to convey His final and concluding divine book "The Quran" to all people. It was revealed in Arabic by Archangel Gabriel to Muhammad ﷺ during a period of 23 years (610 - 632 CE). He is considered by Muslims as "The Messenger of God" to all people.





5. Origin and Spread

Islam was originated in Makkah but the first Muslim community was established in Al-Madinah (400 km north of Makkah). After the passing away of the Prophet, his companions and followers committed themselves to convey the Message of Islam to all people all over the world.

6. Number of followers

According to the latest statistics, Muslims are about 1.8 billion in the world. Islam is the second largest religion on the earth. They make up a majority of the population in 50 countries. Only 20% of Muslims are Arabs.

7. Structure / Frame work of Islam

Islam can be divided into two parts:- (1) The Islamic Creed and (2) The Islamic System (law and way of life). They are commonly known in Arabic as (Aqidah and Shariah).

Aqidah is the firm belief in Allah (One God) Who created us as well as the belief in His angels, Divine Books, Messengers, the Day of Judgment and His pre-ordainment and fated matters

Shariah is the “Do” part of Islam. It is the Islamic system, law and way of life. It sets the rules that control three main branches:

1-Rites/acts of worship.

2-Ethics and morals.

3-Transactions between people (social/financial).

8. The Holy Book of Islam

The “**Quran**” is considered by Muslims as God’s final and concluding Divine Book. It is often called the “Gracious Quran” or the “Glorious Quran”. It acknowledges and embraces all previous books God sent to humanity. such as the Scrolls revealed to Abraham, the Psalms revealed to David, the Torah revealed to Moses, and the Gospel revealed to Jesus. It is the only book on earth that contains God’s own words without being rephrased by a human being. Also, it is the only surviving Divine Book that is preserved from alteration or falsification.

9. Worship in Islam (the 5 Pillars of Islam)

These are the rites and acts of worship mentioned under Shariah. There are five pillars of “worship” in Islam. In order to become a Muslim, you should acknowledge all five pillars.

(1) Utter verbally the **Shahada** (testimonial of faith). (2) Establish the daily five prayers to God (**Salat**). (3) Fast the month of Ramadan every year (**Siyam**). (4) Pay annual alms (**Zakat**) for the needy and poor. (5) Perform pilgrimage (**Haji**) once in a life time to the Sacred Mosque in Makkah which contains the Kaabah (House of God).

Haji journey takes a week time approximately and requires performing many rites related to Prophet Abraham.



10. Dos and Don'ts in Islam

Simply "Do" good and refrain from doing bad. Major sins in Islam: (1) To deny existence of God who created the universe and all beings (i.e. to be an atheist). Also to believe in other deities than God and associate them in worship with God. (i.e. to become a polytheist). (2) Disobedience to parents and treating them badly. (3) Murder, killing people and committing suicide. (4) Abominations such as fornication, adultery, homosexuality and sexual assault (5) Consuming or taking over orphan's wealth illegally. (6) Cheating and not giving the right measure in the balance and weight in the scale. This is in financial & non-financial transactions with others. (7) Perjury or lying when bearing witness in a court. (8) Charging usury when lending needy people.

11. Food and Drink

All food is lawful to eat (i.e. Halal in Islam) including seafood except the following is forbidden: (1) Pork, (2) Any animal that eats flesh. (3) Deceased animals. (4) Any animal that was not slaughtered according to the Islamic way. All drinks are lawful except blood and alcoholic drinks (e.g. wine) that can make you drunk and lose your brain whether you drink little of it or more.

12. Dress Code

Women: modest dressing covering body and head hair only when they reach puberty.

Men: Modest dressing mainly covering from the navel (belly button) to the knees.

13. weekend

Friday is a rest day for Muslims. They are required to perform the congregational Friday prayer in the Mosque and to listen to a short speech.

14. Celebrations / Feasts

Two annual feasts set according to the lunar calendar.

Eid Al-Fitr: (3 days) at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Eid Al-Adha: (4 days) (10th-13th Thul-Hijja) which is the lunar month of pilgrimage.





Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has told us that there are three mosques to which Muslims from all over the world travel to worship; Masjid Al Haram in Makkah, Masjid Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem, and Masjid An-Nabawi in Madinah. (Narrated by Bukhari, Muslim and Al Jami Al Saghir)



Al-Aqsa Mosque - Jerusalem

15. Sacred/ Holy Places

There are only three holy places in Islam:

- (1) The Sacred Mosque in Makkah which contains the Kaabah, the first house of worship put on Earth to glorify and worship one God. It was re-established by Prophet Abraham who raised its walls on its original foundation. Muslims from all over the world direct their prayers to the Kaabah in the Sacred Mosque in Makkah.
- (2) Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mosque in Madinah. It is the main mosque of the first Muslim community and the starting point of conveying the Message of God to humanity.
- (3) Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the second mosque put on Earth to worship one God (Allah exalted be He). Also, it is the first “Qibla” in Islam. It means the place that Muslims used to direct their prayers before changing it to the Kaabah.

The rewards for praying in the three sacred mosques are as follows:

Masjid Al Aqsa (Palestine): 5,000 prayers

Masjid An-Nabawi (Madinah): 1000 prayers

Masjid Al Haram (Makkah): 100,000 prayers



Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem:

It is believed by Muslims that it is the second mosque placed on the earth for humanity to worship one God (Note: the first one is the sacred mosque in Makkah). Al-Aqsa Mosque is a sacred place for Muslims and used to be the first Qiblah in Islam (the place Muslims used to direct their faces towards it when praying to God). After Quranic revelation from God, Muslims were commanded to change the “Qiblah” towards the Sacred Mosque in Makkah. The total area of Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Sanctuary is about 14.4 Hectare or 144,000 m². It includes two important shrines, the “Qibli Masjid” (where the imam usually leads the prayers) and the “Dome of the Rock”.

Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem:

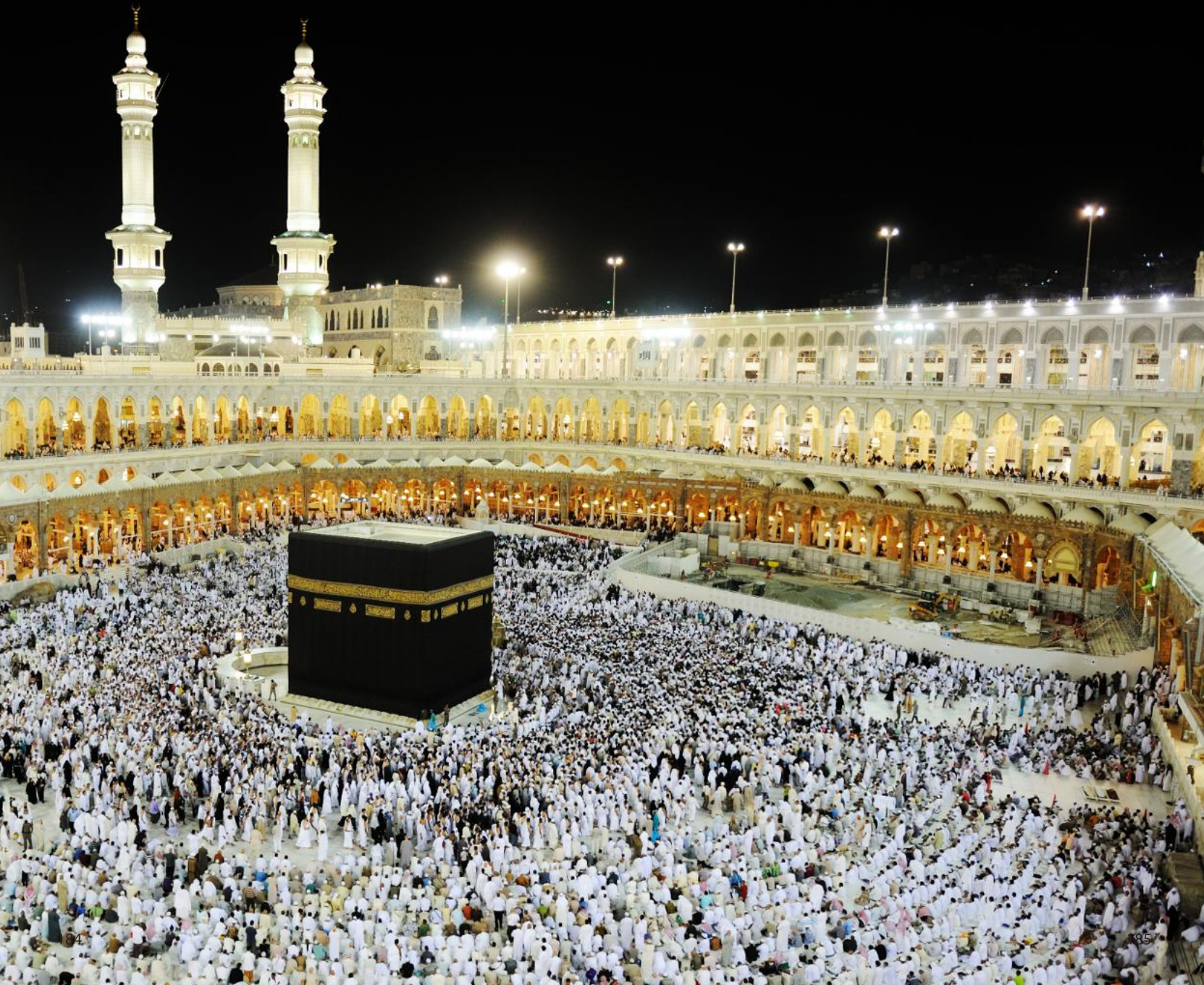
It is an Islamic shrine and a mosque built in the period of 688-692 CE by the Umayyad Caliph Abdul Malik Bin Marwan over the rock that is believed by Muslims the place where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) ascended to the Heavens. It is an octagon building with a golden dome of 29.4m diameter.

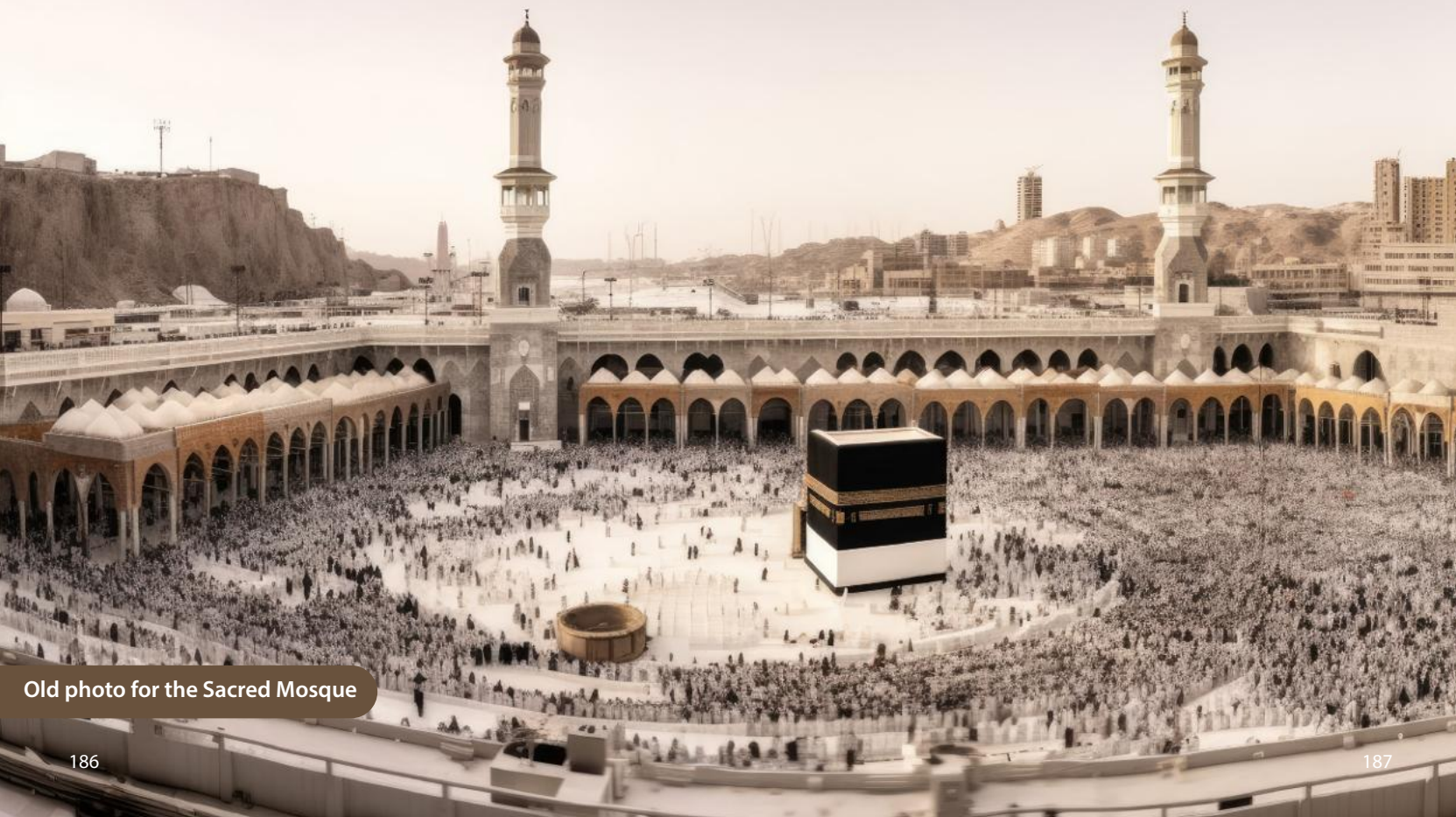
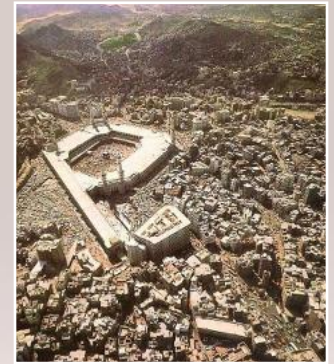


The Sacred Mosque:

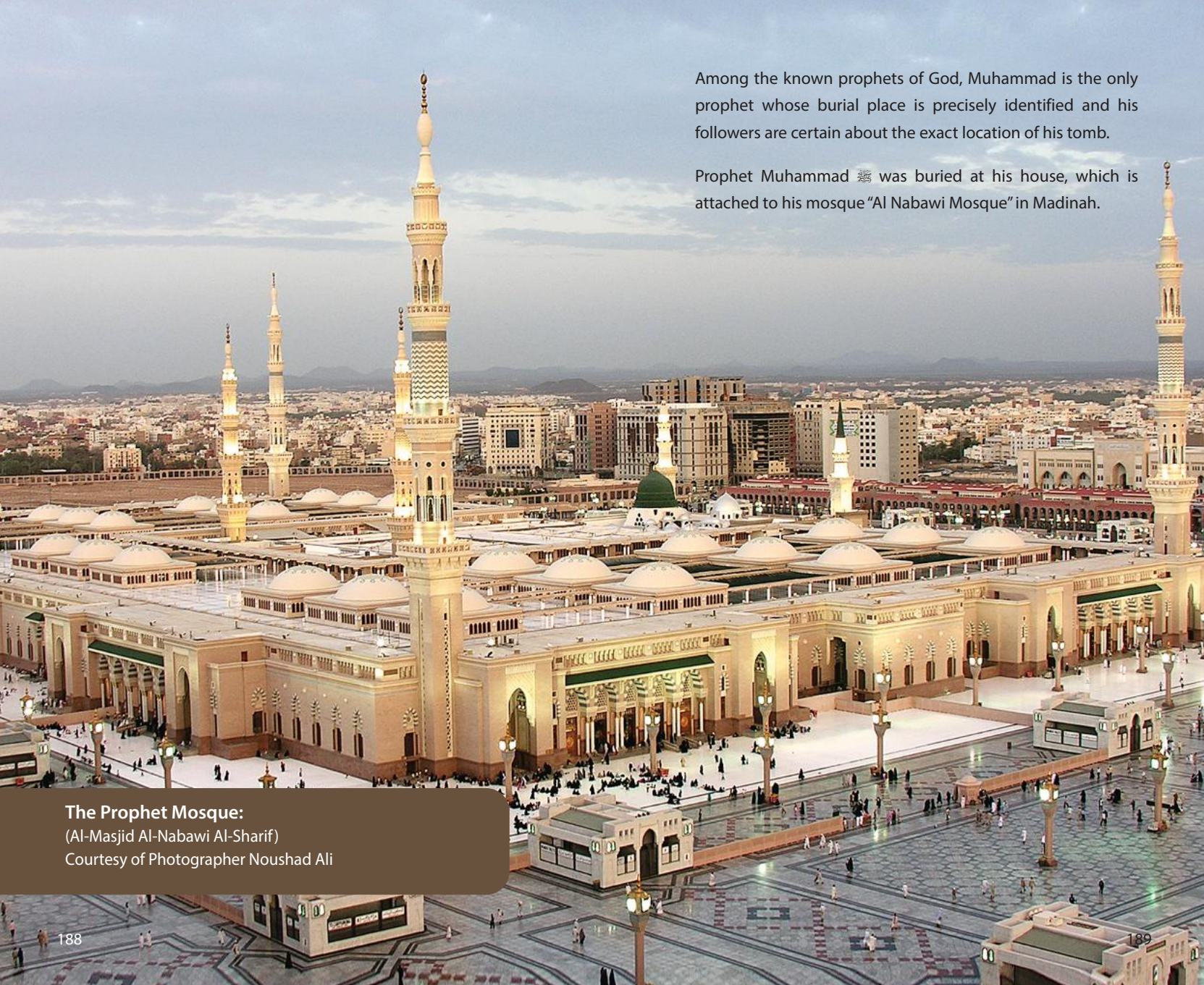
(Al Masjid Al-Haram) in Mecca (Makkah), Saudi Arabia. This is the holiest Mosque in Islam. The black building is the Ka'bah. Muslims believe God commanded Prophet Abraham to establish the Ka'bah to glorify and worship Him (The One God). When Muslims pray to God, they direct their faces (from all over the world) toward the Ka'bah.

Prophet Muhammad indicated that praying in the Sacred Mosque (God's house of worship) is highly rewardable. The reward for one prayer in the Sacred Mosque is equivalent to the reward of 100,000 prayers.





Old photo for the Sacred Mosque



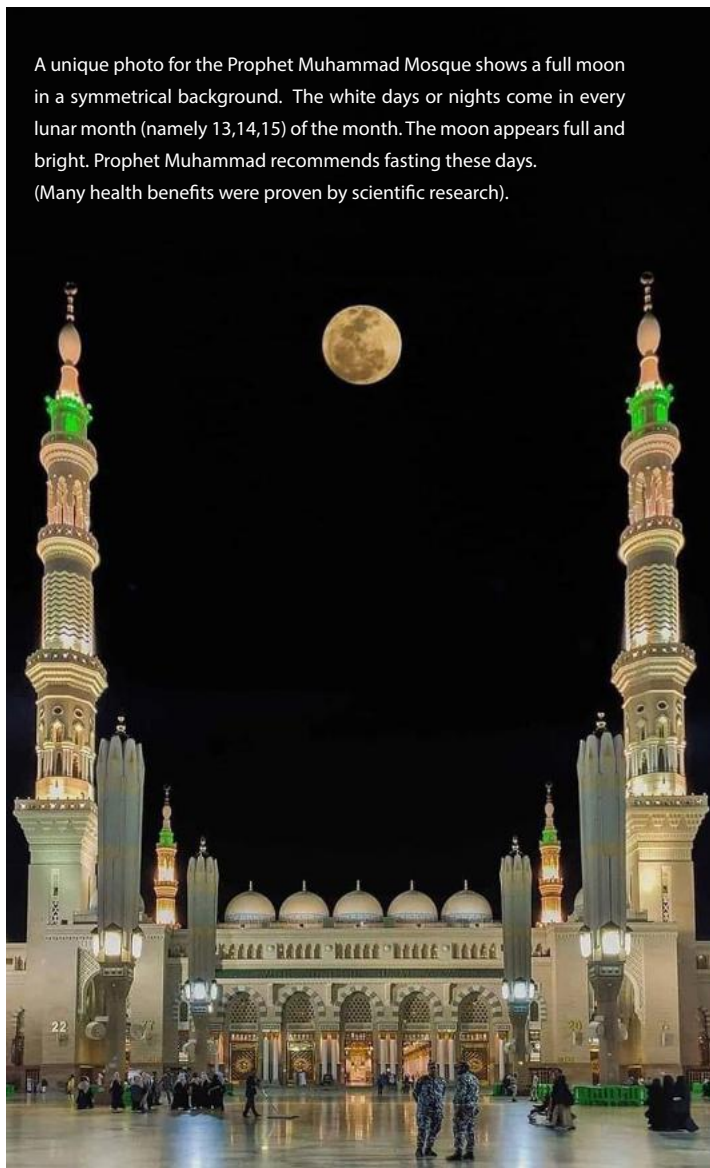
Among the known prophets of God, Muhammad is the only prophet whose burial place is precisely identified and his followers are certain about the exact location of his tomb.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was buried at his house, which is attached to his mosque “Al Nabawi Mosque” in Madinah.

The Prophet Mosque:

(Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi Al-Sharif)

Courtesy of Photographer Noushad Ali



A unique photo for the Prophet Muhammad Mosque shows a full moon in a symmetrical background. The white days or nights come in every lunar month (namely 13,14,15) of the month. The moon appears full and bright. Prophet Muhammad recommends fasting these days. (Many health benefits were proven by scientific research).

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This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, uniform squares formed by thin, light gray lines. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

