

Basic Understanding of Islam



What is Islam
Who is Allah
What is the Qur'an
Who is Prophet Muhammad
How to Become a Muslim

Sheikh Saleh Hamidi
Muslim Chaplain (Imam)

What is Islam?

Islam is the name of the religion that Muslims follow. Islam means peace and submission. People who practice Islam are called Muslims.

Who is ALLAH?

It is the Arabic name for God. It comes from 'al' and 'ilaah' which when translated means "The God". All Arabs (Christians, Muslims, and Jews) use the name ALLAH when they refer to God.

What is the Qur'an?

It is God's final message to mankind. It is a book of Guidance and a constitution for everyday living. It deals with every aspect of life, and provides practical solutions to life's problems.

Muhammad himself could not read nor write. Thus hearing a few verses by those around him would change their lives completely as they would accept the faith. Those who didn't accept were challenged by the Qur'an to produce something

similar to it but they couldn't. The Quran still remains in its original pure unadulterated form today as it was revealed to Muhammad more than 1400 years ago and millions of people have memorized the whole Qur'an from beginning to the end. The challenge to produce a book similar to the Qur'an or to prove it as not being from God still remains as well.

Who is Prophet Muhammad?

Muslims believe that Islam is a faith that has always existed and that it was gradually revealed to humanity by a number of prophets, but the final and complete revelation of the faith was made through the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century CE. Muhammad is the final prophet in Islam, known as the 'Seal of the Prophets'. This means that Muslims regard Muhammad as Allah's final messenger. No other prophet comes after Muhammad (peace be upon him), Muhammad was born in Mecca in Saudi Arabia in 570. He was a deeply spiritual man, and often spent time in meditation on Mount Hira.

The traditional story of the Qur'an tells how one night in 610 he was meditating in a cave on the mountain when he was visited by the angel Jibreel who ordered him to recite. Once Jibreel (angel) mentioned the name of Allah, Muhammad began to recite words which he came to believe were the words of God.

What do Muslims believe?

- **Muslims believe in one God the Creator of the universe.** The Arabic term for God is Allah. Sometimes Muslims prefer to use the name Allah over God because Allah linguistically does not have a gender and cannot be made plural. The English name GOD could become GODDESS or gods. The main message of the Qurān is that God is one. He has no partner, child, or helper.
- **Muslims believe in angels.** There are many angels and they all obey God. Unlike humans, angels do not have free

will and must obey all the commands of God. Different angels have different tasks. For example, the angel Gabriel (Jibraeel) was responsible for communicating the message of God to human Prophets and Messengers. The Angel Michael (Mikaaeel) is responsible for food and weather system. Angels also help and assist believers in times of difficulty.

- **Muslims believe in all Prophets and Messengers.** A Muslim is required to believe in Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Joseph, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon all of them. They believe that the final Prophet was Muhammad and no other prophet will come until the final day. They all came with the same message, to worship one God and not associate any partners with him.
- **Muslims also believe in all previous scripture that God sent to His Prophets and Messengers.**

Moses was given the Torah, Abraham was given the scrolls, David was given the Psalms, and Jesus was given the Bible. With the exception of the Qur'ān, no previous scripture is completely preserved in its original form. With time, many of these scriptures were lost or corrupted. The Qur'ān was sent as the "final testament" and it functions as God's final message to mankind.

- **Muslims believe in the afterlife.** There will be a day of judgment where God will hold people accountable for their actions in this world. Those who did good will enter paradise and those who did evil will either be forgiven or punished in hell. Everyone will be compensated for their actions in this world.
- **Lastly, Muslims believe in God's divine will and decree.** God has knowledge of all things that will happen. He does not force humans to

make decisions; we choose what we want to do. However, there are certain things that God decreed and are outside of our control. These things include the time and place we were born, where and when we will die, and anything that happens that is outside our control. Muslims submit to these things as part of God's decree and will.

Belief in these things is what makes one a Muslim. One might not practice Islam perfectly, they may commit sins and make mistakes, but as long as they have these beliefs they are considered to be a Muslim.

What are the five pillars of Islam?

The most important Islamic practices are the Five Pillars of Islam. The five pillars of Islam are

1. **Shahadah:** The confession of faith, the belief that "There is no God but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God" is central to Islam. This phrase

written in Arabic, is often prominently featured in architecture and a range of objects, including the Qur'an, Islam's holy book of divine revelations. One becomes a Muslim by reciting this phrase with conviction..

2. **Salah:** Prayer, Muslims pray facing Mecca five times a day: Fajr (at dawn), Zuhr (noon), Asr (mid-afternoon), Magrib (sunset), and Isha(after dark). Prayer includes a recitation of the opening chapter (sura) of the Qur'an, and is sometimes performed on a small rug or mat used expressly for this purpose. Muslims can pray individually at any location (fig. 1) or together in a mosque, where a leader in prayer (imam) guides the congregation. Men gather in the mosque for the noonday prayer on Friday; women are welcome but not obliged to participate. After the prayer, a sermon focuses on a passage from the Qur'an, followed by prayers by the imam and a discussion of a particular religious topic.

3. **Zakat:** Alms In accordance with Islamic law, Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need. Many rulers and wealthy Muslims build mosques, drinking fountains, hospitals, schools, and other institutions both as a religious duty and to secure the blessings associated with charity.

4. **Sawm:** Fasting During the daylight hours of Ramadan, (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar). All healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink. Through this temporary deprivation, they renew their awareness and gratitude for everything God has provided in their lives—including the Qur'an, which was first revealed during this month. During Ramadan, they share the hunger and thirst of the needy as a reminder of the religious duty to help those less fortunate.

5. **Hajj:** Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca, in present-day Saudi Arabia.

Facts about the five pillars of Islam

- There is no specific order to fulfilling the five pillars of Islam as they all maintain equal importance. Each of them have their own appointed times, places and guidelines, be it daily, annually or once a lifetime.
- A Muslim must commit to each pillar and what it entails throughout their lives.
- Each pillar also accounts for those who may be unable to fulfil one or more of them, for example, due to ill health, menstruation or pregnancy and a lack of financial means, amongst others.

You should know that accepting Islam deletes all sins which come before it. As a new convert, your record is clean; it's similar to a literal rebirth. One should strive to keep this record clean and strive to do as many good deeds as possible.

Islam emphasizes modesty. There are certain guidelines both for men and women that their dress should neither be too thin nor too tight to reveal body forms. For men, they must at least cover the area from the knee to navel and for women; their dress should cover all areas except the hands and face.

How to Become a Muslim

Shahadah – The Muslim Testimony of Faith

To enter into the religion of Islam the process is very simple so long as it is done with full sincerity and conviction. The recital of these very simple words (otherwise known as the Testimony of Faith - Shahadah).

In Arabic: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ.

Pronunciation: La ilaha illallahu Muhammadur
Rasulullah

English Translation: There is no God but Allah
Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.

Second Shahadah (Testimony)

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ، وَرَسُولُهُ.

Pronunciation: Ash-hadu al-laa ilaaha
illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu wa ash
hadhu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa
rasooluhu.

English Translation: I declare that there is none
worthy of worship but Allah. He is one and has
no partner and I testify that Muhammad (Peace be
upon him) is the servant and messenger of Allah.

“That is it, now you are Muslim”

Should I Change My Name?

No! You are not required to change your name when you become Muslim. Your name is part of your identity, and there is nothing in Islam that requires that you change it. The only situation in which changing it is important is if your name has an evil connotation in your own culture, or if it is the name of a God or Goddess of another religion. Allah is primarily concerned with the condition of your heart, above all else.

There is no compulsion for one to accept Islam. However, Islam encourages humans to search for the purpose of their creation and other practical solutions to life's problems. Islam itself provides these answers and invites everyone to accept it but it doesn't force anyone. Islam states that humans have been endowed with the faculty of understanding and reasoning and acceptance or rejection is entirely an individual's choice. However, it also warns

that every soul will be accountable for the choice it makes.

Muslims are brothers and sisters. A Muslim should love for his brother or sister what she/he loves for him/herself. Allah's wealth does not run out and Allah can provide for us all. We pray for each other, and love each other, and love for our brothers and sisters what we love for ourselves.

TA-AWWUZ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ.

A'oo-zu billahi-minash shaytwanir rajeem.

Meaning: I seek Allah's protection from the accursed shaytaan.

TASMIAAH

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

Bismillaahir Rahmanir Raheem

Meaning: In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful.

Praise be to Allah

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ.

Al-hamdu lillaah.

Meaning: All Praise be to Allah.

THE GREETING OF A SALAAM

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

Assalaamu alaikum

Meaning: May the peace and blessings of Allah descend upon you.

REPLY OF SALAM

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ

Wa-alaikumus-salam wa-rahmatullah

Meaning: And upon you (also) be the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah.

TEXT OF THE AZAAN

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ

Allaahu akbar-allaahu akbar

Meaning: Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest.

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ

Allaahu akbar-allaahu akbar

Meaning: Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest.

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ

Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal-laah

Meaning: I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah.

اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ

Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal-laah

Meaning: I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah.

اَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَّسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ

As-hadu an-na muhammadar rasulul laah.

Meaning: I bear witness that Mohammed is the messenger of Allah.

اَشْهَدُ اَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَّسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ

Ashadu an-na muhammadar rasulul laah-

Meaning: I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.

حَيَّ عَلَي الصَّلَاةِ

Hayya Alas Salaah

Meaning: Come to prayer

حَيَّ عَلَي الصَّلَاةِ

Hayya Alas Salaah

Meaning: Come to prayer

حَيَّ عَلَي الْفَلَاحِ

Hayya alal Falaah.

Meaning: Come to your Good

حَيَّ عَلَي الْفَلَاحِ

Hayya alaL Falaah.

Meaning: Come to your Good

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allaahu akbaer-allaahu akbar

Meaning: Allah is the greatest Allah is the greatest.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Laa ilaaha illal lah

Meaning: There is no deity but Allah.

12 Arabic Lunar Months

Muharram محرم

Safar صفر

Rabi-ul-Awwal ربيع الاول

Rabius Saanee ربيع الثاني

Jumadhal Ula جمادي الاول

Jamada-as-sani جمادي الثاني

Rajab رجب

Shabaan شعبان

Ramadaan رمضان

Shawwal شوال

Zhu'l Qidah ذو القعدة

Zhu'l Hijjah ذو الحجة

THE FAMOUS ANGELS OF ALLAH

Jibra'il (Gabriel)

Brought Allah's messages and books to all the prophets.

Mikaa'il (Michael)

He is in charge of food and the weather system.

Azrail (Angel Of Death)

He is in charge of death. Takes away life with the order of Allah.

Israfeel (Raphael)

He will blow the trumpet on the day of Judgement

THE FAMOUS BOOKS OF ALLAH

Torah التَّوْرَةُ

Tawrat: revealed to Prophet Moses (peace be upon him)

Bible الْإِنْجِيلُ

Injeel: revealed to Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him)

Psalms الزَّبُورُ

Zabur: revealed to Prophet David (peace be upon him)

Quran الْقُرْآنُ

Quran: revealed to Muhammad (saw)
(peace be upon him)

Muhammad (saw) is the last prophet. No other prophet will come after Muhammad (saw) and the Qur'an is the final book of Allah

FAMOUS HADITH BOOKS

Sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

1. Sahih Al-Bukhari
2. Sahih Muslim
3. Sunan Abu Dawud
4. Jami'at Tirmidhi
5. Sunan An-Nasai
6. Sunan Ibn Majah

FOUR MUSLIM LEADERS (Caliphs)

After Prophet Mohammed (SAW)

1. **Abu Bakar** (Radiyallahu-anhu)
2. **Omar bin Khattab** (Radiyallahu-anhu)
3. **Osman** (Radiyallahu-anhu)
4. **Ali** (Karramallahu Wajhuh)

Name of the Five times Daily Salah

Names of five times daily salah	No. of Raka'ats	Sunnat	Fard	Sunnah	Nafil	Witr Waajib	Nafil
Fajr	4	2 Muakkada	2				
Zuhr	12	4 Muakkada	4	2 Muakkada	2 Optional		
Asr	8	4 Ghair Muakkada	4				
Magrib	7		3	2 Muakkada	2 Optional		
Ishaa	17	4 Ghair Muakkada	4	2 Muakkada	2 Optional	3	2 Optional

Friday Prayer

SALATUL ZUM'AH JUMA 12 RAKAATS

SUNNAT	After which come the KHUTBA	FARD	SUNNAT	SUNNAT
4		2	4	2
Muakkada		Read with Jama'ah	Muakkada	Muakkada

Eid Salah

2 Islamic Celebration a year Eid-ul Fitr & Eid Ul Adha

2 Rakaats with 6 Takbeer

No Azan or Iqamat before Eidul-Fitr-or EidUl-Adha Salat. No Nofil Salah before and after Eid salah.This two rakaatas wajib with six extra takbeer.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ.

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illalahu wAllahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar Wa lillahil Hamdu.

Allah is greatest, Allah is the greatest, there is no God except Allah, and Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest and to Allah (alone) belongs all praise.



Charity Reg.
Number: 1122271

(We are a grassroots charity organisation committed to eradicating poverty and suffering in Bangladesh since 2007)

OUR PROJECTS

- ❑ Housing Project: Built over 500 permanent houses for homeless and needy families
- ❑ Water Project: Installed over 1,000 hand water pumps and some deep tube wells for poor, needy families and communities.
- ❑ Empowerment: Distributing fishing boat, rickshaw, sewing machine, computer training etc to many poor families so they can earn their own living.
- ❑ Health and Medical: Distributed around 5,000 wheelchairs for disabled people to make them mobile also supporting medical eye camps, surgeries and operations.
- ❑ Educational Project: Looking after many orphans and poor children and providing them with good food, accommodation and education to brighten their lives and future.
- ❑ Blind Support Project: Supporting blind people by giving them monthly foodpacks and providing them good accommodation and education by Braille system.



Goreeb and Yateem Trust Fund

Sort Code: 40-02-33

Account Number: 71593579

IBAN: GB81HBUK40023371593579

Branch ID Code: HBUKGB4115A



Al-Rayan Bank

Goreeb and Yateem Trust Fund

Sort Code: 30-00-83

Account Number: 01351301

IBAN: GB72 ARAY 3000 8301 351301

Branch ID Code: : ARAYGB22

Goreeb and Yateem Trust Fund

259 (2nd Floor) Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DB

Office : 020 7247 8245 | Saleh Hamidi 07957 382021

www.goreebfund.com | info@goreebfund.com