

ISLAM

A SHORT INTRODUCTION

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مركز الدراسات والبحوث الإسلامية
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مركز أوسول للدعوة الإسلامية

ISLAM







Basmala



■ About Osoul

Despite the tele-communication revolution currently engulfing the world, the (the Book) remains deeply effective in the intellectual life of mankind due to its role in crystalizing ideas in the depth of the society. But this depends on the way intellectuals carry out the message of the book.

Due to this (Osoul International Center for da'wa Content) adopted a project for publishing old books that dealt with the Islamic Da'wa (Call), particularly books that approached non-Muslims, new converts and Muslims in general. This project comes as part of other projects that aim at enriching the Da'wa with objective and scientific approach.

This pioneering approach aims at exploring information that came in those books, and the way they were handled. These information must be attractive, smooth and addressing the groups according to information they have about Islam. The aim was to clarify any misunderstanding and deepen the spirit of faith in Muslims and teach them how to defend their religion in a refined manner based on deep confidence that Islam is the seal of all religions and a guide and mercy to all mankind.

The book we are introducing, (Islam ... a Brief Introduction), teaches non-Muslims the core of Islam and its message and discusses ideas inconsistent with the basic principles of Islam. The book adopts a calm approach that offers proof that fits with people who have wrong information about Islam.

The book starts with defining the meaning of Islam in linguistic and terminology. The book also talks about the five pillars of Islam and the six pillars of the faith (Ayman). Then it deals with the vision of Islam about Allah and the last Day. The book tries to clarify misunderstanding and confirms that the oneness of Allah is the core of the Islamic faith, and that Islam does not only explain the purpose of life, but also talks about life after death. Islam also answers a very important question, why is the Day of judgment?

After that the book speaks about some aspects of the prophet character and his life (pbuh.) and the good qualities never known in a person before or after the prophet.

The book states that Islam has two sources, the Quran and the Sunnah. The Quran is the Book of Allah, which no falsehood can approach it, and the only one among heavenly Books that never subjected to distortion. And the pure Sunna which was carefully preserved and protected from any suspicion.

The book goes on to promote the real Islam and its high human values that direct the conduct of a Muslim in all situations. The books also shed lights on the contribution of Muslim scholars (Ulema) in promoting human civilization in various fields of knowledge.

The book also dealt with the role of women in the Muslim society and their high status in light of Islamic teachings, giving real examples in this respect. The book concludes with the issue where people mix between Jihad and terrorism, confirming that Islam is a religion of mercy, not only for mankind but all creatures created by Allah and the environment in which they live.

Out of what we have mentioned, it becomes clear that the book raises very important issues and deals with them by confirming

Islam's point of view on those issues using facts, proof and logic.

We hope that researchers who honestly want to know true Islam will find what they are looking for in this book.

And Praise be to Allah.

**Basil Ibn Abdullah Al-Fozan,
Director General,**

OSOUL International Center for AI-DAWAH content





■ INTRODUCTION

Islam is a mystery to most Westerners. Imagine that there are 1.6 billion people in the world⁽¹⁾ who follow one of the world's largest religions that you may never have studied in school. It includes among its adherents different races and peoples of Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Americas and has contributed to Western thought and culture for over a thousand years.


Open almost any newspaper, turn on the radio or television, and there will be stories about Islam. Sadly, many of these stories will be accompanied by images of violence. The vision of Islam emerging from these images is one of brutality, hatred, disorder, and fanaticism. This image of 'militant Islam' lies at odds with a faith that most Muslims— about 23% of world population - adhere to. The word **Islam** itself is closely related to **salaam**, the word for "peace." The universal Muslim greeting is **as salaamu 'alaikum**— "peace be on you!" Islam is a peaceful religion with teachings that cover every area of life. Islam is a way of life that millions of people consult in their daily affairs. It answers fundamental human questions such as why are we here, who is God, what kind of life should a person lead, and what happens to us after we die? It also has its own program for improving the heart, mind, and spirit.

The purpose of this book is to give a brief account of what the faith of Islam teaches, not of how some Muslims behave. In Islam, like other religions, there are differences between what the believers are taught by their faith and what many actually think and do.

Reference

1- <http://goo.gl/qw30eK>





A word about the organization of this book. It is divided into seven parts:

- Part1** discusses the basic beliefs and practices, in particular the Six Articles of Faith and the Five “Pillars” of Islam.
- Part2** delves into belief in God and the Last Day in a little more detail.
- Part3** discusses the key events in the life of Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of Islam.
- Part4** explains the two major sources of Islam – the Quran and the Sunna.
- Part5** is dedicated to Islamic values and the contribution made to the world by the Islamic civilization. The Islamic values are found in the sacred texts of Islam, the Quran and Sunna. A sample will show the reader the beauty of these gems. The enduring legacy of the Muslim civilization in the fields of mathematics, medicine, astronomy, chemistry, and other fields is also highlighted.
- Part6** is about women, one of the most misunderstood aspects of the faith.
- Part7** discusses the issue of terrorism and Jihad in a little detail because of its importance in today’s world and the extent to which it is misunderstood.

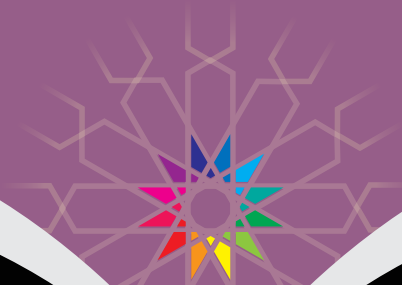
We hope that the book will give a glimpse into the beauty of Islam and encourage the reader to explore this faith in more detail.





PART 1

BASIC BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

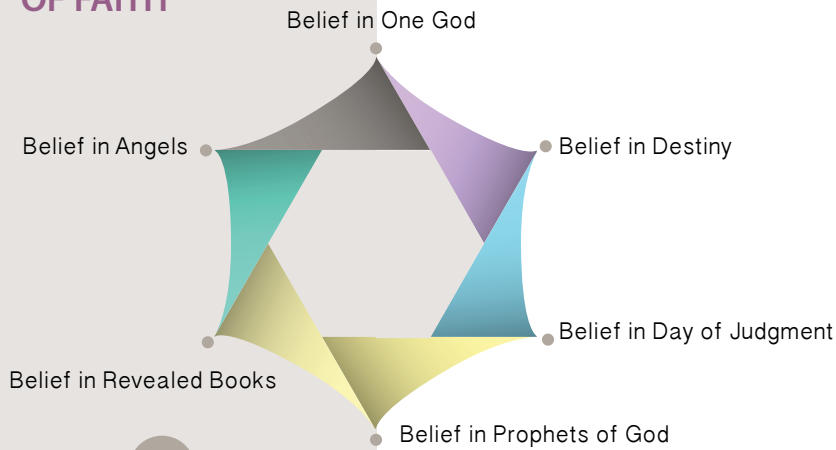


MEANING OF THE WORD 'ISLAM'

The Arabic word 'Islam' means 'peaceful worship and submission to the One God.' A person who believes in and practices Islam is known as a 'Muslim.' Islam brings a person into a relationship with God based on love, fear, submission, and hope.

Islam is not a new teaching, but a continuation of the Truth that was brought in the past by Moses, Jesus, and other great prophets. Islam did not begin with Muhammad ﷺ, rather it is the same pure message taught by previous prophets but was altered and changed by human interference. In other words, 'Islam' in the time of Moses was to believe and worship God alone and to follow the Prophet Moses. 'Islam' in the time of Jesus was to believe and worship God alone and to follow the true teachings of Jesus. 'Islam' after the coming of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is to believe and worship the same God, but to follow the last and final prophet, Muhammad, peace be on them all.

THE SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH





THE SIX ARTICLES OF FAITH

Muslims share a common set of basic beliefs known as “Articles of Faith”:

01

Belief in One God ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

The most important teaching of Islam is that only God is to be served and worshipped. Also, the biggest sin in Islam is to direct worship to other objects or beings, either in association with God or towards them entirely. In fact, it is the only sin that God will not forgive if a person dies without repenting from it.

02

Belief in Angels ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

God has created beings from light called angels. What do angels do? Basically, they bring messages, more broadly, they carry out God’s commands in nature and the universe. Muslims also believe that angels watch over mankind and that every human has them as constant companions. They keep a record of everyone’s good and bad deeds. Not a word is uttered without it being registered by them.

03

Belief in Revealed Books ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Muslims believe that God revealed His wisdom and instructions through ‘books’ to some of the prophets. God revealed the Psalms to David, the Torah to Moses, and the Gospel to Jesus. Over time, however, the original teachings of these books got changed or lost. Muslims believe that the “Quran” (also spelled ‘Koran’) is God’s final revelation that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Quran has been fully preserved in its original language, Arabic.

04

Belief in Prophets of God ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Muslims believe that God communicates with us through human

Islam is not a new teaching, but a continuation of the Truth that was brought in the past.



• God



Entrance into Islam begins with reciting a simple statement: "None deserves worship except God (Allah), and Muhammad is His Messenger (Prophet) of God"

prophets that were sent to all races and peoples at different times. The line of prophets started with Adam and includes Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. The series of prophets ended with Muhammad ﷺ, peace be upon them all. Every prophet brought the same truth from the same source, therefore we honor and believe in all of them. Their main message was always that there is only One true God and that He alone deserves to be prayed to and worshipped. Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet of God like prophets before him, he was not the son of God as Muslims believe that God has no children.

05

Belief in Day of Judgment

Life does not end with death. Islam teaches that this world and the human race will come to an end at an appointed day. At that time, God will bring every person back to life from the dead. He will examine each person's life and will judge every soul according to two criteria: faith and deeds. It is the balance between the good and bad we have done that will determine our final place. God will show mercy and fairness in judgment. According to Islamic teachings, those who submitted themselves in worship to God and performed good deeds will be rewarded with Paradise. Those who rejected faith in God and cared less for good will be punished in Hell.

06

Belief in Destiny

Muslims believe that nothing in our life happens by pure chance. Everything happens with the full knowledge and permission of God since He is the Sustainer of all life. This belief does not contradict the idea of free will. God does not force us, though, as our choices are known to Him beforehand because His knowledge of future is complete. Thus, He knows what we will do. This recognition helps a Muslim through difficulties and hardships.



THE FIVE “PILLARS” OF ISLAM

A pillar is a support, something that holds up a structure. Islam is like a house built on a rock of submission and supported by these five ‘pillars’ or fundamental practices. The implication is that everything else depends upon them. They are: declaration of faith, prayer, fasting, charity, and pilgrimage.

01

The First Pillar: Declaration of Faith ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Entrance into Islam begins with reciting a simple statement: “None deserves worship except God (Allah), and Muhammad is His Messenger (Prophet) of God”

A person from any race, country, or ethnicity can accept Islam and become a Muslim. The doors of God’s acceptance and forgiveness are open to every human being. When you accept God, you take God as the greatest influence in your life. Following God’s will and doing what pleases God becomes more important than anything else, including the demands of the body and ego. When you acknowledge Muhammad ﷺ as God’s messenger, you pledge to follow his teachings because they come from God.

02

The Second Pillar: Daily Prayer ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Prayers are central to Muslim life, providing spiritual strength and peace of mind. It is a direct link connecting a Muslim with God, performed five times a day. A mosque is where Muslims gather for prayers, even though they can be offered at any place. Friday is the most important day when Muslim men are required to attend the mosque in the after-noon to listen to a short sermon and attend a group prayer.

03

The Third Pillar: Charity (Zakah) ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Zakat is a charity required of every Muslim who has sufficient means

The First Pillar: Declaration of Faith

The Second Pillar: Daily Prayer

The Third Pillar: Charity (Zakah)

The Forth Pillar: Fast the Month of Ramadan

The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage to Mecca

PILLARS OF ISLAM





to pay it. The annual charity is seen as purification of one's wealth. It reminds us that all things come from God and all things belong to God. We are only the custodians of whatever has come to us. In Islam, it is the duty of the rich to help the poor.

04

The Forth Pillar: Fast the Month of Ramadan

Muslims who are able to do so are commanded to fast one month every year from dawn to sunset. This period of intense spiritual devotion is known as the fast of **Ramadan** in which no food, drink, sex, arguing, or fighting is allowed. Ramadan is a month to practice self-control and focus on prayers and devotion. During the fast, Muslims learn to sympathize with those who have little to eat.

05

The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage to Mecca ●●●●●

All Muslims are required to make pilgrimage to Mecca (located in Saudi Arabia) if they can afford to do so. The Ka'ba, a black cube at the heart of Mecca, is the most sacred place in Islam and was built by Prophet Abraham and his son, Ishmael. Muslims throughout the world perform all their prayers facing the Ka'ba. The Hajj is the most intense spiritual experience for a Muslim. Two to three million Muslims from around the globe perform the pilgrimage yearly.

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Why do Muslims fast Ramadan?

This question is continuously repeated by non-Muslims. Why this month in particular? They also wonder, why Muslims abstain from food water and lusts from dawn to sunset for a complete month?

This video answers the question and further more, explains the wisdom behind the fasting of this month, the difference between the fasting of Muslims and the fasting of the advocates of other religions. Fasting Ramadan does not means abstaining from food, water and sexual intercourse. The one who fasts must perform all duties and abstain from all forbidden things. He must keep away from backbiting, gossip, lying, not to deal with illegal selling and avoid any talk or action that causes the wrath of Allah and his disobedience. This spiritual training for a whole month helps set straight oneself for the rest of the year. Fasting is a means for expressing thanks and praise to Allah, neglect committing sins and overcome desires. It leads one to be merciful and passionate towards the poor, conquering Satan and training oneself to observe Allah ,most exultant. This self- training leads Muslims to be obedient to Allah .





■ 10 reasons to be a Muslim

This video depicts 10 reasons that answer a very important question that faces any Muslim: Why you are a Muslim?

The answers here are simple but very deep. Islam answers important questions, like who created the universe? Why did He created us? What is the aim of life? Then, what is after death?

Islam is a religion that promotes the dignity of man and fulfil his freedom in life .Islam rejects all forms of injustice . Islam stipulates that all people are equal, no one is better than the other except by fear and piety of Allah. Islam is the religion of reason that denies all forms of ignorance and superstition. It rejects anything to be worshipped other than Allah. Islam is a way of life, the religion of prophets and messengers, not Muhammad alone. It is a religion that rejects mediation between a servant and his lord. This clear vision of life attracts man to be a Muslim and proudly carryout duties bestowed on him by Allah who made man his successor on earth. Basil Ibn Abdullah Al-Fozan, Director General ,Usool International Center for Da'wa Contents.





PART 2

**GOD &
THE LAST DAY**



■ God

The Word for God in the Arabic language is 'Allah.' To Muslims, Allah is not just their God, but He is the Lord of the entire universe. One of the greatest misconceptions about Islam has to do with the Arabic name of God. Some non-Muslims assume that 'Allah' is a God other than the God of Judaism or Christianity. Interestingly, Arabic speaking Jews and Christians use the word 'Allah' to refer to God. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all believe in the same Creator and their roots go back to Prophet Abraham.

'We believe in God,

And what has been sent down to us,

What has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael

And Isaac and Jacob and their offspring,

And what was given to Moses and to Jesus

And all other prophets by the Lord.

We make no distinction among them.⁽¹⁾



While they believe in the same God, how they think of God differs greatly. For example, Christians believe that God has a son, whereas Islam teaches that God does not have any children.

'The disbelievers say, 'The Lord of Mercy has a son.'

This is certainly a monstrous lie!

It almost causes the heavens to be torn apart, the earth to split asunder, the



mountains to crumble to pieces,
That they attribute offspring to the Lord of Mercy.
It does not befit the Lord of Mercy to have a son:
There is no one in the heavens or earth who will not come to the Lord of
Mercy as a servant.¹⁽²⁾

Arabic does not have an equivalent of 'it.' Therefore, in Arabic, God is referred to in the masculine form "He" or the royal plural "We." These words have to do with the limits of human language. In Islam, Allah is neither male nor female, but the Creator of both genders.

In Islam, faith in God consists of four matters:

- God exists
- God is the Supreme Lord
- Only God must be worshipped
- We know God by His Most Beautiful Names and Attributes



In Islam, Allah is neither male nor female, but the Creator of both genders.



God's Existence ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

God is real and His existence is true. God's **existence** is recognized by the innate nature of every human being. From a castle one learns of the castle-maker, from the universe one learns of its Creator. God's existence is also known by answers to prayers, miracles of prophets and the books God revealed. Neither is God part of His creation, nor does He dwell in it. He is separate and above what He has created.



God the 'Ruler' of human beings. Just like the physical world submits to its Lord, human beings must submit to the teaching of their Lord.

02

God is the Supreme Lord

God is the sole Lord and Ruler of the world. He has no sons or wife. He does not sleep or get tired. He is unique, everlasting, powerful, and eternal. God is the 'Lord' means that He is the Creator, Controller, and Owner of the universe. God is the King and the Savior, a Living God, a Loving God, full of wisdom. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belong exclusively to Him. Angels, prophets, and human beings are under His control. "Is He not closer than the vein of your neck?

You need not raise your voice,
For he knows the secret whisper,
And what is yet more hidden"⁽³⁾.

"He knows what is in the land and in the sea;
No leaf falls but He knows it; Nor is there a grain in the darkness under the earth,
Nor a thing, green or dry, but it is recorded."⁽⁴⁾

God is also the 'Ruler' of human beings. Just like the physical world submits to its Lord, human beings must submit to the teaching of their Lord. God distinguishes right from wrong. God alone has the authority to determine acts of worship and set standards of human behavior.

03

Only God must be worshipped

The most fundamental teaching and core of Islam and the purpose of our creation is to worship and serve God. God must be worshipped by one's heart and limbs. No one can be worshipped **apart** from Him, no one can be worshipped **with** Him. He





Human beings are weak and prone to sin, but God is willing to forgive. The Prophet Muhammad said, «God's mercy outweighs His wrath.»



has no son, daughter, helper, partner or associate in worship. Worship, in its comprehensive sense, is for God alone. A person becomes Muslim by testifying to God's right to be worshipped.

It was the central message of **all** prophets of God. Moses declared, "Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."⁽⁵⁾ Jesus repeated the same message when he said, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord.'"⁽⁶⁾ Finally, the call of Muhammad ﷺ some 600 years after Jesus was, «And your God is One God: there is no god but He...»⁽⁷⁾

04

We know God by His Most Beautiful Names and Attributes

We cannot see God in this life and Islam does not allow making statues or pictures of God. So, how do we know Him? We know God by His Names and Attributes that **describe** Him. More than nine-nine beautiful Names and many more Attributes come to us from the Quran and the teachings of His Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ.

«**And the Most Beautiful Names belong to God, so call on Him by them.**»⁽⁸⁾

We will give example of two Names of God and one attribute. Two of the most frequently used Names of God are, "the Most Merciful." (**Ar-Rahman** in Arabic) and "the Most Compassionate" (**Ar-Raheem** in Arabic). All chapters of the Quran (the Muslim scripture), except one, begin with the phrase, "In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate." Muslims utter this phrase to remind themselves of God's loving grace and mercy every time they eat, drink, write a letter, or perform anything important.





One of the most beautiful attributes of God is forgiveness which defines His relationship with human beings. Human beings are weak and prone to sin, but God is willing to forgive.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, «God's mercy outweighs His wrath.»⁽⁹⁾ In Islam, there is no concept of original sin, children are born innocent and sinless, and you do not confess sins to any middlemen. The faith teaches that you go directly to God, acknowledge your weakness, and ask for His forgiveness. How do you do that?

Here is a beautiful example: a prayer for forgiveness taught by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, "O Allah, You are my Lord, there is none worthy of worship except You. You created me and I am Your servant. I adhere to Your covenant and Your promise as much as I am able to. I seek protection with You from the evil of what I have done. I admit to You your blessings on me and I admit to my sins. So forgive me, for there is no one who can forgive sins except You."⁽¹⁰⁾





■ The Last Day

One thing is certain in this life, and that is death. Not only does Islam explain what the purpose of life is, but it also speaks clearly about life after death and how this life and the next one are related. Our duration on this earth is short and temporary. The end of this life is the beginning of another one that will last forever. That is why it is called the 'Last Day.' The universe will come to an end on that day. Everything will be annihilated. The Quran describes the Day of Resurrection as follows:

“When the sky bursts open,

When planets are dispersed,

When the seas spill forth,

When graves are turned over,

Then each soul will know what it sent forward and what it left behind.” (11)

العظيم

• The Magnificent

Everyone will stand to be judged by a Fair, Just, and Merciful God about the choices they made in this life. Those who were good will be admitted into Paradise. Those who rejected faith and did evil, will be punished in Hell.

Why a Judgment Day?

Over one quarter of the Quran deals with the next life. That is understandable because for the Muslim, the real life is yet to come. Islamic stress on the life to come does not dismiss participation in



- World war



- Hitler



affairs of this life, neither does it encourage a life of self-denial. Islam is against today's materialism that chokes the spirit, but it is also against withdrawal from society.

To understand the reasoning behind a Judgment Day, we have to remember our purpose of life. We are here to be tested by God in our belief and actions. Through this test, we try to develop ourselves and raise our soul to the highest level of purity. We accomplish this through belief in God, seeking His guidance through Books He revealed and following the example of prophets He send, and living a life devoted to good deeds and seeking repentance when we fall short. Therefore, the logical conclusion is that there must be an end to this test and that each of us will receive our grade eventually.

Judgment is necessary. The idea that truly evil people in this world can escape punishment simply by dying is unimaginable. Can Adolph Hitler escape retribution? Think of all the abused children, war-crimes, mistreated animals, thefts, and rapes. The view of life which says we are all just intelligent animals who live only once, is an open license for irresponsible behavior. To them, you live only once and if you can get away with your crimes, so be it. Islam contends that it is not consistent with God's perfect Justice that all people be treated the same.

“On that Day will men proceed in groups sorted out,
To be shown the deeds that they had done.
Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it!
And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil shall see it.”⁽¹²⁾



Every single soul that ever lived will be brought back to life for final judgment. Judgment Day will manifest divine grace and justice in their perfection. The rules of engagement have been clearly laid down in the Quran and by the Prophet of Islam:

01

Perfect Justice

God will judge between people with perfect justice. God's court will not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or mere verbal affiliation to a religion. No person will be treated unjustly, even as little as a 'seed,' 'Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, And they will not be treated unjustly.' ⁽¹³⁾

02

Each On His Own

God's justice will judge everyone individually, no one will bear the sins of the other. 'And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, And He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.' ⁽¹⁴⁾

03

Written Records

People will be handed their personal "diary" containing all their deeds, the good and the bad. 'And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], And you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, And they will say, "Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great

The rules of engagement have been clearly laid down in the Quran and by the Prophet of Islam:

- Perfect Justice
- Each On His Own
- Written Records
- Divine Grace



• The Resurrector

except that it has enumerated it?”

And they will find what they did present [before them]. And your Lord does injustice to no one.’

04

Divine Grace

The Prophet of Islam informed us,

‘God Almighty has divided mercy into one hundred parts. He kept ninety-nine parts and sent down one part to earth. Because of that one single part, creatures are merciful to one another so that even the mare will lift its hooves away from its foal so that it does not trample on it.’





Paradise

Paradise is not God's residence or a spiritual state of everlasting communion with God as some think. The Quran describes it as a beautiful and wonderful place that awaits those who believe in God, His prophets, and do righteous good deeds. Paradise is a spiritual and sensual residence of pleasure in which all one's senses will be gratified to the fullest. It is an abode of manifold enjoyments for the faithful, its dwellers will not feel the least pain or sadness, where every aspiration will be finally realized. It is a place of peace, with rivers and fruits, sweet smells, goblets of gold, and the shade of God Himself.

The Quran tells us that the joys of Paradise are beyond our comprehension: "No person knows what delights of the eye Are kept hidden in reserve for them, As a reward for their good deeds." ⁽¹⁷⁾

Both men and women will live in Paradise.

"God has promised to believers, men and women, Gardens underneath which rivers flow, To dwell therein, And beautiful mansions in Gardens everlasting.

But the greatest bliss is the good pleasure of God; That is the supreme felicity." ⁽¹⁸⁾

The people of the Garden will be happy and experience true inner peace.

"The righteous will be amid gardens and fountains.

Their greeting will be, 'Enter here, in peace and security.' And We shall remove from their hearts any lurking sense of grudge.

They will be like brothers, Joyfully facing each other on thrones.

There, no sense of fatigue shall touch them, Nor shall they ever be asked to leave." ⁽¹⁹⁾



- And He is Omnipotent







In Islam, Hell is depicted as a fierce fire that will burn and punish those who are caged in it. It is a place of intense heat and suffering, with boiling water, hot wind, and black smoke



■ Hell Fire

Just as the good will be rewarded for their efforts, those who rejected God and rebelled against His laws will face punishment in the life to come. The Fire of Hell is described to serve as a warning about the consequences of the choices people make in life. In Islam, Hell is depicted as a fierce fire that will burn and punish those who are caged in it. It is a place of intense heat and suffering, with boiling water, hot wind, and black smoke. In Hell people are burned and dragged in chains. They are given boiling water to drink and thorny plants to eat. There is no relief for the punished.

“So taste the results of your evil; No increase shall We give you, Except in torment.”⁽²⁰⁾

The only people who will be eternally punished in Hell without escape are those who disbelieve in God and associate others with Him in their worship.

The Quran says, “But those who reject God, for them will be the Fire of Hell.

No term shall be appointed for them, So they should die, Nor shall its punishment be lightened for them. Thus do We reward every ungrateful one!”⁽²¹⁾

Those who believe in God may spend some time in Hell for sins they fell into during their lives. Sins such as arrogance, pride, murder, lying, oppression, immorality, slander, and miserliness may be punished if they are not repented for before death. Similarly, one may be punished for being neglectful of duties owed to God.

Despite the graphic images of Hell, the overwhelming message of Islam is of God’s Mercy and Compassion as the Prophet of Mercy stated, ‘When God decreed the creation He pledged Himself by writing in His book which is laid down with Him: My mercy prevails over My wrath.’⁽²²⁾

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19. Quran 15:45-48
20. Quran 78:30
21. Quran 35:36
22. Bukhari

■ Does God exist?

This video depicts some of Allah's signs in prospective and in ourselves and that these signs are enough for any reasonable person to meditate and apprehend that everything in this universe is perfectly created by Allah, almighty.

Any disruption in the steering wheel of a vehicle for one second, on a highway, is enough to lead to a catastrophe, and any mistake of one degree in temperature will be enough to explode a bomb. The athlete heroes know very well the value of a moment. To them it means to win glory or lose it. Everything in this universe is based on accurate measures that can never be exceeded whatsoever. Does this apply to the universe in which we live? Is it true that this whole universe does not work according to a system, as non-believers claim?





■ God across History

How was this universe came into being? Is there any creator? Does it has an end?.

These questions and the likes appear to be of deep philosophical dimensions. The normal answer is that the creator of this universe is Allah who deserves to be worshipped .So, people were set to worship him , every group in its own way .Some of them worshipped stones and extend offerings to them, others worshipped animals .They discovered there were gods who used to fight each other. There were some people who believe in monotheism, others believe in triangulation. Others believed that all this was Salaciousness. So, where is the truth?

This video shows how man searched for Allah and the way each religious followers worshipped Him. This leads to the fact that Allah sent the messengers to explain that there is only one God. But religions were misrepresented and distorted .Then came Islam , the seal of all religions, to stress that monoecism is the base, the origin and the foundation of faith . And that Allah accepts no conduct but through Islam .Allah forgives those who advocate Islam ,but never forgive those who deny Islam.







PART 3

PROPHET MUHAMMAD



Part 3: Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Muhammad ﷺ, whose name in Arabic means 'the praised one,' was born in the town and commercial center of Mecca which is situated in Saudi Arabia today

'He was of a certainty a most unique and special man who demonstrated within his own life the virtues of humility, compassion, obedience, and a thirst for justice, and a call for all men to worship the one and only God of all creation...The message of Muhammad was, and remains to this day, a message of peace, mercy, and compassion.'⁽¹⁾

William W. Baker, former college Professor of Ancient History and Biblical studies, member of Near East Institute of Archaeology and the Oxford Philosophical Society in More in Common Than You Think, 1988 Defenders Publications. p. 6-7.

Chronology of the Life of the Prophet

570 C.E. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is born

610 C.E. He receives the first revelation of the Quran.

612 C.E. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ begins to preach publicly.

615 C.E. The Muslim community is persecuted by the rich and powerful in Mecca.

622 C.E. Hijrah – Seventy Muslim families migrate to Madina followed by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

624 C.E. The Battle of Badr – Muslims win a dramatic victory over Meccan forces.

625 C.E. The Battle of Uhud – Muslim forces suffer losses after an initial victory.

627 C.E. The Battle of the Trench – Muslims hold off and defeat a besieging Meccan army.

628 C.E. Peace treaty is signed between Mecca and Madina.

630 C.E. Mecca violates the peace treaty. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his army enter Mecca unopposed.

632 C.E. Death of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.



• Muhammed



Muslims believe that God send prophets to every civilization and people. Some are mentioned in the Quran by name, others are not. As mentioned in Part 1, under the “Six Articles of Faith,” the prophets brought the same message: worship God alone and follow the prophet He send. Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was God’s final prophet send to all mankind. He was a descendant of Prophet Ishmael, the son of Prophet Abraham. He never claimed to be God or have the powers of God. He did not ask for any special reverence or recognition for himself. His message is completely preserved and will be discussed in Part 4. They also believe that his coming was foretold in the Bible in numerous verses, for example:

“I (God) will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (Moses), and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.” ⁽²⁾

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.” ⁽³⁾

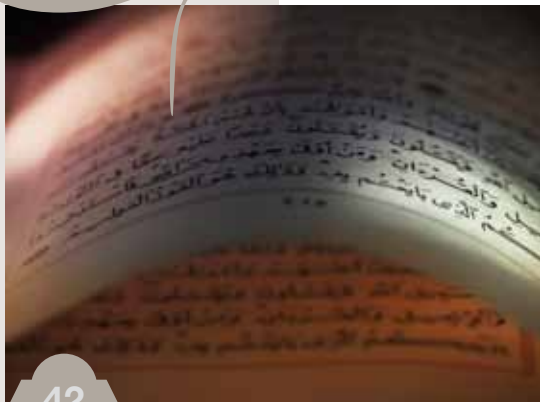
Muhammad ﷺ, whose name in Arabic means ‘the praised one,’ was born in the town and commercial center of Mecca which is situated in Saudi Arabia today. He was the son of a young couple from the tribe of Quraish. His father, Abdullah, died two months before his birth, and his mother, Aamina, died when he was six years old. Both his parents came from a humble, but eminent background. His grandfather, Abdul-Muttalib, was the virtual head of the Meccan commonwealth and the custodian of the Ka’ba, the cube-shaped building in Mecca built by Prophet Abraham for the worship of God. Upon the death of his grandfather, Muhammad ﷺ was adopted by



his uncle, Abu Talib who was a generous and gentle man, but was not rich. The young Muhammad ﷺ had to earn his own livelihood. He first served as a shepherd, then as an assistant to his uncle's trading caravans, travelling to northern Arabia and Syria. It was on these 'business trips' that he learned trading skills. These skills were later noticed by Khadia, a wealthy widow business-woman. She hired Muhammad ﷺ to run her commercial enterprise. They were married when she was forty and Muhammad ﷺ was twenty-five. The marriage produced six children, two boys who died as infants, and four girls. He remained married to his wife for a period of twenty-five years until her death, despite the fact that taking multiple wives was culturally accepted.

For several years he practiced meditation and contemplation at a cave in Mt. Hira, on the outskirts of Mecca. It was here, at the age of forty, that he heard the voice,

اللهم صل على محمد وآل محمد



'Proclaim in the Name of your Lord and Sustainer,
Who has created –
Created humanity out of a mere clot.
Proclaim – for your Lord
Is the Most Gracious One
Who has taught (the use of) the Pen,
Taught humanity what they did not know!'⁽⁴⁾

Thus began the revelation from God, through the angel Gabriel, to Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of God.

The leaders of Mecca were displeased with the new message which rejected their idol-worship. Most of the early believers were



from the lowest class of society who were attracted to the message of human equality and justice. The powerful Meccans tortured them. After years of abuse, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ send some Muslims to a just and fair Christian king in Africa.

The year 620, when he was fifty, was marked by sorrow and sadness as both his wife and uncle, Abu Talib, passed away in the same year. Without the protection of his uncle, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ turned to other cities for support and shelter. Finally, the people of Madina invited the Muslims to their city and treated them as family.

In Madina, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ wrote a city charter guarantying the rights of all residents and made treaties with all neighboring tribes and cities. No one was forced to convert to Islam. Over the coming years, several battles ensued until a truce was stuck at Hudaibiya. When the truce was violated, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ marched on Mecca. Instead of vengeance and plunder, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ granted amnesty. Meccans, for their part, accepted Islam.



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1. William W. Baker, former college Professor of Ancient History and Biblical studies, member of Near East Institute of Archaeology and the Oxford Philosophical Society in More in Common Than You Think, 1988 Defenders Publications. p. 6-7.
2. Deuteronomy 18:18
3. John 14:16
4. Quran 96:1-5





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
بِذَلِكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا يَأْتِيهِ
الْحَوْلُ وَالرُّشْكُ وَلَا يَأْتِيهِ
السُّبُوتُ وَالنَّوْمُ لَهُ مَا فِي
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ
إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا
يَحِيطُ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا
بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ
حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ
الْعَلِيمُ

PART 4

SOURCES OF ISLAM
QURAN AND SUNNA



Sources of Islam

Quran and Sunna

Muslims learn about their religion from two basic sources, the 'Quran' and the 'Sunna' of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

■ Quran

'...The Qur'an cannot be translated. ...The book is here rendered almost literally and every effort has been made to choose befitting language. But the result is not the Glorious Qur'an, that inimitable symphony, the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy. It is only an attempt to present the meaning of the Qur'an-and peradventure something of the charm in English. It can never take the place of the Qur'an in Arabic, nor is it meant to do so...' ⁽¹⁾ Marmaduke Pickthall, The Meanings Of The Glorious Quran.

'By virtue of its peculiar structure Arabic lent itself admirably to a terse, epigrammatic manner of speech. Islam made full use of this feature of the language and of this psychological peculiarity of its people. Hence the "miraculous character" of the style and composition of the Koran, adduced by Moslems as the strongest argument in favor of the genuineness of their faith. The triumph of Islam was to a certain extent the triumph of a language, more particularly of a book.'⁽²⁾ Philip Hitti, The Arabs: A Short History, p. 26-27, 1943 Princeton University Press.

To Muslims, the Quran is the literal Word of God that He revealed to His prophet, Muhammad ﷺ, by means of the angel Gabriel.

"The revelation of the Book (the Quran) is from The Lord of the Worlds"⁽³⁾

To Muslims, the Quran is the literal Word of God that He revealed to His prophet, Muhammad ﷺ, by means of the angel Gabriel.





The Arabic Quran is about as long as the Christian New Testament. In most editions it is between 400 and 600 pages in length. The Quran contains over six thousand verses (Arabic aa-yat) that were revealed over twenty-three years. Verses are collected into 114 surahs or chapters of unequal length.

In contrast to the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, the Quran issued from the mouth of a single person, who recited what he heard from the angel Gabriel. On the other hand, both the Jewish and the Christian scriptures are collections of many books that were written down by different people who did not live at the same time or in the same place.

The Quran is both recited orally and written down in book form. To the Muslims, the Quran is not just 'a' book,' but 'the Book.' Yet, the true power of the Quran remains in the oral recitation.

What makes the Quran special?

Of all the major scriptures only the Quran exists in the original language it was revealed in – Arabic.

The Arabic Quran is not the same as its translation. The Bible is the Bible, no matter what language it may be in, but a Quran translation is not the word of God. The "Quran" is the exact Arabic words spoken by God and revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in Arabic. God says in the Quran, "Indeed, I revealed it as an Arabic Quran."⁽⁴⁾

The Quran is the only book revealed by God, Muslims believe, that has remained unchanged for 1400 years. The Quran that is read and recited today is exactly the same Quran that was read and recited at the time of the Prophet of Islam.

The Quran is both recited orally and written down in book form. To the Muslims, the Quran is not just 'a' book

• Marmaduke Pickthall



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
الَّذِي أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمِهِ
إِتِّخَاذَ الصِّرَاطِ الْمُسْتَقِيمِ
الَّذِي لَا يُغَيِّرُ أَلْوَانَهُ
وَالَّذِي لَهُ الْأَلْوَانُ
الضَّرِاطُ وَالْقَبْضُ
وَالَّذِي لَهُ الْبُيُوتُ
الْمُنْتَهَىٰ





Lastly, Muslims claim that the Quran is the true Word of God for several reasons:

The Literary Miracle of the Quran

The Arabic Quran is considered inimitable, it has no equal. Human beings, no matter how hard they try, are not capable of replicating something similar in beauty, eloquence, or wisdom. Past prophets offered proof of their prophethood through miracles. The Quran is the living miracle of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who never went to school. During his life, he never read a book, nor was he ever tutored. How could a man uneducated in the modern sense of the word, all of a sudden, produce a book of supreme eloquence at the age of forty?

The Scientific Miracles in the Quran

The Quran has scientific information that was unknown 1400 years ago. Here are a few examples:

The development of the embryo is accurately described in the Quran (Quran 23:12-14). So striking that a world renowned expert in the field,⁽⁵⁾ Dr. Keith Moore,⁽⁶⁾ said, “It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad ﷺ from God, because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later. This proves to me that Muhammad ﷺ must have been a messenger of God.”⁽⁷⁾

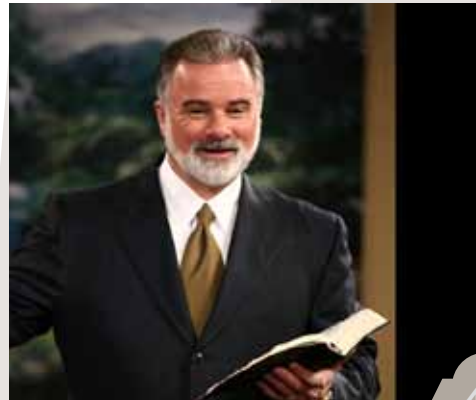
The sun is not stationary, but moves in a specific direction.⁽⁸⁾

That living things consist mostly of water was discovered only after the invention of the microscope, but the Quran states, “We made every living thing from water? Will they not believe?”⁽⁹⁾



- Holly Quran

- Keith Moore



hadith were classified into four different types: authentic, good, weak, or fabricated. Only the first two categories are considered authoritative by Muslims scholars



That mountains have deep 'stake' like roots was not known, until after the development of the theory of plate tectonics in the beginning of the 20th century, yet the Quran states, "Did We not make the earth a resting place? And the mountains as stakes?"⁽¹⁰⁾

What was the source of this information? The only reasonable answer is that it was God who sent the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

"And if you are in doubt about what we have sent down upon our servant (Muhammad ﷺ) then produce a chapter like it."⁽¹¹⁾

Content & Teachings of the Quran

In the Quran God speaks in the first person, describing Himself, the principles of belief, and the fate of man in the life to come after death. It contains the accounts of past prophets and their communities. It has prayers and words of inspiration. It tells us how the Creator fashions the universe and develops the fetus in the womb. It examines the heart and mind of man. God also makes His laws known. It tells people how to pray, fast, and take care of the needy. It tells people that they should observe God's instructions purely for God's sake, not for any worldly aims. It

warns those who deny God's messages that they will be thrown into the fire of Hell, and it promises those who accept the messages that they will be given the bliss of Paradise. Much more than the Judeo-Christian Bible, the Quran talks specifically about God. No matter what the topic may be, the Quran refers the discussion back to God by mentioning one or more of the divine Names, such as "God is the Mighty, the Knowing." God's compassion and mercy are cited 192 times in the Quran, as opposed to 17 references to his wrath. It goes into details of human interrelationships - such



as laws of inheritance and marriage. Despite this, it is not just a work of theology, law, history, or natural science. It is all of those and none of them at the same time. It is more than the sum of its component parts.

■ Sunna:

During the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and after his death, his companions preserved his sayings and words by collecting and writing them down. Every report about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is called a “hadith” whereas the ‘Sunna’ refers to the teachings and the way of life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It is central to the understanding of Islam as without the ‘Sunna’ one cannot really understand how to implement Islam. ‘Sunna’ is contained in the books of hadith. Muslim scholars developed a very sophisticated system to investigate the transmitted material or the ‘hadith’ to ensure its accuracy:

they examined the names of the people who heard or saw Prophet Muhammad ﷺ themselves.

the reputation of each narrator .

the chain of narrators was examined to determine if any of the narrators were considered untrustworthy or were of weak memory.

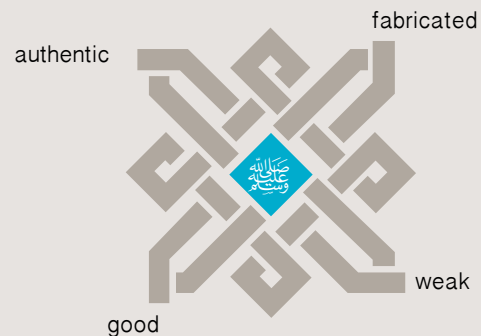
the text of the hadith itself was examined for contradictions against the Quran and other verified traditions.

Based on the results of the examination, hadith were classified into four different types: authentic, good, weak, or fabricated. Only the first two categories are considered authoritative by Muslims scholars.

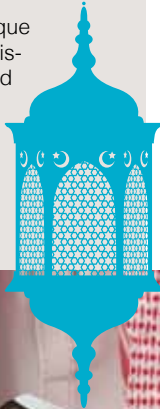


• Muhammed

Hadith were classified into four different types.



After the death of Muhammad ﷺ, undertook long arduous journeys, courted poverty and penury in order to collect them together... Their remarkable activity with regard to the preservation and propagation of hadeeth is unique in the literary history of the world



Among the more notable collections those of Imam Bukhari from Bukhara (a city in modern-day Uzbekistan), and Imam Muslim of Persia. Their collections of hadith are considered to be the most authentic. The English translations are easily available on the Internet. They are the collected sayings and actions of the Prophet, categorized by topic (such as faith, works, testimony, prayer, fasting, charity, marriage, finance), that were compiled in the early centuries of Islam.

M. Z. Siddiqi, a Muslim scholar, summed up how the Sunna was preserved:

“The Hadeeth in the sense of the reports of the sayings and doings of Muhammad ﷺ has been a subject of keen pursuit and constant study by the Muslims throughout the Muslim world since the very beginning of the history of Islam up to the present times. During the life-time of Muhammad ﷺ many of the companions tried to learn by heart whatever he said, and observed keenly whatever he did; and they reported these things to one another. Some of them wrote down what he said in Saheefahs (scrolls) which were later on read by them to their students, and which were preserved in their families and also by the Followers. After the death of Muhammad ﷺ, when his companions spread in various countries, some of them as well as their followers undertook long arduous journeys, courted poverty and penury in order to collect them together...Their remarkable activity with regard to the preservation and propagation of hadeeth is unique in the literary history of the world...[And the excellence of their sciences remains] unparalleled in the literary history of the world even today.”⁽¹²⁾

Compare it with the case of Paul and the origins of Christianity. Paul had never met Jesus, therefore, he could not trace his



teachings back to Jesus. Consequently, he met opposition from many of Jesus' disciples who knew firsthand what Jesus had said. Unfortunately, many of the claims made in early Christianity were not traced back to Jesus and nothing equivalent to 'hadith' or 'Sunna' were developed in Christianity. As a result, the religion got distant from the true teachings of Jesus.

Quran vs. Hadith

The verses of the Quran are unique in their style. From rhymes to prose, there is a certain way that the information is presented using certain types of constructions. The words of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, or hadiths, which form the Sunna, are words he spoke to people that are neither rhymed nor recited in a melodious voice. The following is an example of the difference in style. The first selection is a verse from the Quran. The second two well-known hadiths of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Quran:

“O You who believe, shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a painful doom? It is that you believe in Allah and His Messenger and then strive in His cause with your wealth and your persons. That is best for you if you only knew.”⁽¹³⁾

Hadith:

“The older a person gets the more his desire for two things increases: wealth and longevity.”⁽¹⁴⁾

“Learning is a duty on every Muslim, male and female.”⁽¹⁵⁾

As you can see, the tone and style of the Quran is distinctly different in the Arabic language from the tone of hadith which are more like words of wisdom, statements of a teacher to his students.

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12. M. Z. Siddiqi, *Hadeeth Literature: Its Origin, Development, Special Features and Criticism* (Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 1961), pp. 4-5
13. Quran 61:10-11
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PART 5

**ISLAMIC VALUES
&
CONTRIBUTION OF
ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
TO THE WORLD**



■ Islamic Values & Contribution of Islamic Civilization to the World

“I wish Westerners who misunderstand Muslims could have seen Syed Abbas in action that day. They would see that most people who practice the true teachings of Islam...believe in peace and justice, not in terror... the Koran instructs all Muslims to make caring for widows, orphans, and refugees a priority.”

Greg Mortenson. ⁽¹⁾

The Quran and Sunna truly embody the values of the Islamic faith. The following is a sample of the beautiful Islamic teachings enshrined in the sacred texts:

• Greg Mortenson





■ God

'Indeed, I am God, there is no god beside Me, So worship Me And establish regular prayer for My remembrance.'⁽²⁾

Purpose of Life

"I only created the jinn and mankind that they might worship Me."⁽³⁾
I demand no livelihood of them, nor do I ask that they should feed Me."⁽⁴⁾

Parents

'And We enjoined man (to show kindness) to his parents, For with much pain his mother bears him'⁽⁵⁾
Kind Treatment of Wives "And live with them in kindness."⁽⁶⁾
Treatment of Fellow Human Beings 'And speak kindly to people.'⁽⁷⁾ 'And do good (to everyone). Indeed, God loves those who do good.'⁽⁸⁾
'Repel evil with what is better.'⁽⁹⁾

Acts of Compassion

'And what will explain to you what the steep path is? It is the freeing of a (slave) from bondage; Or the giving of food in a day of famine to an orphan relative, or to a needy in distress. Then will he be of those who believe, enjoin fortitude and encourage kindness and compassion.'⁽¹⁰⁾

Forgiveness and Justice

'Show forgiveness, Speak for justice And avoid the ignorant.'⁽¹¹⁾

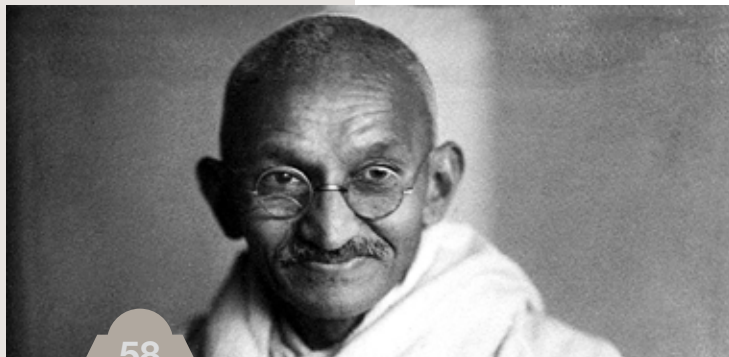
Corruption & Attaining God's Mercy

"Do not corrupt the earth after it has been purged of evil. Pray to Him with fear and hope. His mercy is within reach of the righteous."⁽¹²⁾



Teachings of Prophet Muhammad are among the treasures of mankind, not merely Muslims.

• Gandhi



Open Hearts

“He whose heart God has opened to Islam, shall receive light from his Lord. But woe to those whose hearts are hardened against the remembrance of God! Truly, they are in the grossest error.”⁽¹³⁾

Teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

‘They are among the treasures of mankind, not merely Muslims.’
Gandhi in his foreword to ‘The Sayings of Muhammad,’ by Sir Abdullah Suhrawardy, John Murray Publishers Ltd, London, 1941.

Mercy

‘Show mercy to those on earth and God will show mercy to you.’⁽¹⁴⁾

Power

‘The powerful one is not one who can wrestle others, but the one who controls himself.’⁽¹⁵⁾

Mindfulness

‘Be mindful of God, and you will find God in front of you. Acknowledge God in ease, and God will acknowledge you in distress. And know that what misleads you will never enable you to do right, and what enables you to do right will never mislead you. And know that help comes with patience, and that relief comes with distress; and with difficulty comes ease.’⁽¹⁶⁾

Compassion

‘Whoever has no compassion for people, God has no compassion for him.’⁽¹⁷⁾

Being in the World

‘Be in the world as if you were a stranger, or a wayfarer.’⁽¹⁸⁾



Humility in Practice

'God has inspired me that you should be humble so that so no one despises anyone, and no one oppresses anyone.'⁽¹⁹⁾

The Just

'The just will be on platforms of light in the presence of God; those who are just in their decisions, with their families, and with what they are in charge of.'⁽²⁰⁾

Injustice

'Injustice will be layers of darkness on the Day of Resurrection.'⁽²¹⁾

Kindness

'God is Kind, and loves kindness in all things.'⁽²²⁾

Arguing, Lying, and Good Character

'I guarantee an abode on the edge of Paradise for whoever gives up disputation, even when in the right; and an abode in the middle of Paradise for whoever gives up telling lies even in jest; and an abode on the heights of Paradise for whoever is of good character.'⁽²³⁾

Killing

'...if anyone kills a person - unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land - it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.'⁽²⁴⁾

'If two Muslims meet with their swords drawn, both the killer and the killed are in for the Fire.' Someone asked, 'O Messenger of God, this befits the killer, but what about the one killed?' The Prophet said, 'He was in fact trying to kill his companion.'⁽²⁵⁾

Jesus and Muhammad (peace be on them)

'I am the closest of all people to Jesus, son of Mary, in this world and in the Hereafter; for all prophets are brothers, with different mothers but one religion.'⁽²⁶⁾

Phrophet Muhammad:
I am the closest of all
people to Jesus, son of
Mary, in this world and
in the Hereafter

■ Contributions of Islamic Civilization

'If there is much misunderstanding in the West about the nature of Islam, there is also much ignorance about the debt our own culture and civilization owe to the Islamic world. It is a failure which stems, I think, from the strait-jacket of history which we have inherited.'

Prince Charles in a speech at Oxford University, 27 October 1993.

• Carly Fiorina



• Prince Charles



“...the civilization I’m talking about was the Islamic world from the year 800 to 1600, which included the Ottoman Empire and the courts of Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, and enlightened rulers like Suleiman the Magnificent. Although we are often unaware of our indebtedness to this other civilization, its gifts are very much a part of our heritage. The technology industry would not exist without the contributions of Arab mathematicians. Sufi poet-philosophers like Rumi challenged our notions of self and truth. Leaders like Suleiman contributed to our notions of tolerance and civic leadership. And perhaps we can learn a lesson from his example: It was leadership based on meritocracy, not inheritance. It was leadership that harnessed the full capabilities of a very diverse population—that included Christianity, Islamic, and Jewish traditions. This kind of enlightened leadership — leadership that nurtured culture, sustainability, diversity and courage — led to 800 years of invention and prosperity.”

Carly Fiorina, former CEO of HP, in a speech given in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Sep 26, 2001 “Technology, Business, and Our Way of Life: What’s Next”.

Islam, from its inception, has encouraged Muslims to pursue intellectual and scientific exploration. Throughout its history, the Muslim



world made vital contributions to science and medicine, philosophy, and the arts. Centers of learning in the Islamic world made notable contributions. They contributed to algebra, medical anatomical drawings, optics, geographical maps, and produced several scientific instruments, such as the astrolabe (used to determine the position of sun and stars). What follows are only some snapshots of Muslim contributions to our world:

Education

The Qarawiyn University in Fez, Morocco is the oldest running university in the world. It was founded by Fatima al-Fihria, a Muslim woman, in 859 C.E. The second oldest university in the world is Al-Azhar University, founded in Cairo, Egypt in the tenth century. The Umayyad rulers of Spain had a library of 600,000 volumes in their huge Cordoba library. Hakam II, the caliph of Spain from 961-978, said the love of books was 'a more consuming passion than his throne.'

Medicine

Muslims translated the works of Hippocrates, Dioscorides, Galen, and others into Arabic. The first modern hospitals were established throughout the Islamic world. Harun al-Rashid, a Muslim ruler, created the first modern hospital in Baghdad in 805 C.E.

Abu Bakr Al-Razi, a native of Persia, traveled to Baghdad to study medicine and later became director of a large hospital there. He wrote more than 200 books and was a master of experimental medicine. He made discoveries and wrote treatises on pediatrics, oral hygiene, smallpox, measles, allergies, scabies, and kidney stones.

Ibn Sina, known in the West as Avicenna, was born in present-day Uzbekistan in the tenth-

The first modern hospitals were established throughout the Islamic world. Harun al-Rashid, a Muslim ruler, created the first modern hospital

Qarawiyn University

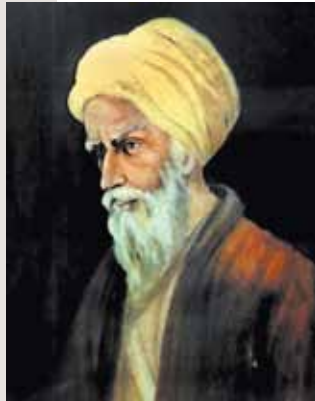


Muslim scientists built observatories all over the Islamic world and refined Ptolemy's catalog and coordinates for the stars. In the eleventh century.

- Abu Bakr Al-Razi,



- Ibn Al-Haytham



century. Ibn Sina's masterpiece was titled 'The Canon of Medicine.' This encyclopedia of medicine consisted of more than a million words and included summarized Greek medicine, anatomical drawings, descriptions of diseases and their cures, and an outline of 760 medicinal plants and the drugs that could be derived from them. The monumental work was translated into many languages and was taught to trainee doctors in universities in France and Italy from the 12th to the 16th century. In addition, the works of more than 400 other physicians and authors were translated into European languages.

Astronomy

Muslim scientists built observatories all over the Islamic world and refined Ptolemy's catalog and coordinates for the stars. In the eleventh century C.E., Nasir Al-Tusi of Baghdad invented the azimuth quadrant and the torquetum, instruments used to compute and measure positions of stars. The word "azimuth" comes from the Arabic word *assumut* (compass bearings).

Mathematics & Physics

The numerals we use today originated in India but were transmitted to the Western world by Muslim scholars in the 8th century C.E. Muslim mathematicians introduced the concept of "sifr" or zero.

The Muslim physicist Ibn Al-Haytham (965–1040 C.E.) calculated the height of Earth's atmosphere to be thirty-two miles. He was off by just a mile!

One of the greatest mathematicians produced by the Islamic civilization was al-Khwarizmi. Born in Uzbekistan, raised in Baghdad, al-Khwarizmi is known as the founder of algebra who also gave



the concept of an algorithm. He developed solutions for linear and quadratic equations and detailed trigonometric tables and geometric and arithmetical concepts.

Al-Biruni, born in 973 C.E. was another famous mathematician. Born in modern-day Uzbekistan, he studied Greek, Syriac, and Sanskrit and wrote about Earth's rotation, made calculations of latitude and longitude, and used mathematical techniques to determine the seasons.

Chemistry

Jabir bin Hayyan or Geber (722 to ca 815) is unanimously considered the founder of Chemistry. He devised and perfected sublimation, liquefaction, crystallization, distillation, purification, amalgamation, oxidation, and filtration. He discovered the sulphuric and nitric acids and built a precise scale. Razi or Rhazes (864 to 925) was even a greater expert than Geber. He designed and described more than 20 lab instruments that are still used today such as the crucible, cucurbit, or retort for distillation. The main chemistry textbook for medieval Europe, Sum of Perfection, was written by a Muslim, Iraqi scholar, Kindi (801-873).

• Jabir bin Hayyan



Geography

Muslims were among the first to calculate Earth's circumference, publish detailed world maps, and study elements and minerals. Muslim geographers traveled all over the world to gather data.

Under the leadership of al-Khwarizmi, seventy geographers worked together to produce the first map of the globe, in 830 C.E.

Al-Idrisi, grew up in Muslim Spain and educated

• Ibn Sina







in Cordoba, was hired to produce a world map for the Norman King of Sicily, Roger II. Christopher Columbus used a map that was derived from Al-Idrisi's work in his explorations of the New World.

English Words of Arab Origin

Of all western European languages, Spanish has the highest concentration of words from Arabic. But, the influence of the Muslim world can also be seen in the many English words that originated from the Arabic language.

- Egyptian manuscript of the anatomy of the horse from the ninth century to the library of the University of Istanbul.



ENGLISH	ARABIC
admiral	amir
alchemy	al-kimiya
alcohol	al-kohl
algebra	al-Jabr
almanac	al-manaakh
atlas	atlas
camphor	kafur
cipher/zero	sifr
cornea	qarniya
cotton	qutn
elixir	aksir
gauze	gazz
jar	jarrah
kohl	kuhl
safari	safara
sofa	suffa
talc	talq
typhoon	tufaan
vizier	waxir

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12. Quran 7:56
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14. Tirmidhi
15. Bukhari
16. Musnad Abd bin Humaid
17. Tirmidhi
18. Bukhari
19. Muslim
20. Muslim
21. Bukhari
22. Tirmidhi
23. Abu Dawud
24. Bukhari
25. Musnad

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ
الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ
وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ
وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ
وَبِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ
مَرْزُوقِينَ





PART 6

WOMEN IN ISLAM



Women in Islam

“If this is Islam, I told myself, I want it. I want to be a part of this generosity, this empathy. I will join this faith with all my heart.”

Lauren Booth, British journalist, sister-in-law of Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister of Britain interviewed by Hasan Rahim for The American Muslim. She accepted Islam in 2010.

• Kristiane Backer



“It’s (referring to the Koran) a magna carta for women!” “The Koran makes it clear that women are equal in spirituality, worth and education. What everyone forgets is that Islam is perfect; people are not.”

Yvonne Ridley, British journalist in “A Muslim in the family” BBC News, May 1, 2004 & “Articles of faith” The Guardian, February 24, 2004. She accepted Islam in 2003.

“True Islam is very different from its picture painted in the media (or the ugly distortions by certain extremists). It is not only my personal interpretation that is different. Anyone who takes the time to do serious research (reading books and speaking to Muslim scholars not just browsing the internet) with an open heart and mind will discover its profundity, and will see the truth in its spiritual and ethical teachings.”

Kristiane Backer, a German television presenter, television journalist and author residing in London, in an interview with William Dobson for <http://sugarstreetreview.com>, 3rd Sep 2012.

The issue of women in Islam is greatly misunderstood. The West has stereotyped Islam as anti-women. In fact, the opposite is true. In the eyes of many Westerners, Muslim women are hidden behind negative stereotypes that portray them as either oppressed, subservient wives and daughters or, more recently, as potential terrorists.

Since ancient times women were abused and mistreated. In some



cultures they were considered property that could be bought, sold, or inherited! Considered inferior to men, they were blamed for misfortune. Their only purpose was to please men. Before Islam, women in Arabia did not do any better. A harbinger of shame to the family, girls were sometimes buried alive at birth!

Islam, as a faith, elevates the status of women in society and advocates their rights. Men and women serve different, but equally important roles in the society and a family. They are in a mutual relationship, both have corresponding rights and are equal in the sight of God. Here is some of what the Quran has to say about women:

“The believers, men and women, are protectors, one of another. They enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong, They observe regular prayers, pay regular charity, And obey God and His Messenger. On them will God pour Mercy, for God is Exalted in power, Wise.”⁽¹⁾ ‘And their Lord answered them: Truly I will never cause to be lost the work of any of you, Be you a male or female, you are members one of another.’⁽²⁾

“For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, For devout men and women, for true men and women, For men and women who are patient, for men and women Who humble themselves, For men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, For men and women who guard their chastity, And for men and women who engage much in God’s remembrance — For them God has prepared forgiveness and great reward”⁽³⁾.

As can be seen, the Quran views woman as spiritually equal to men. Both are God’s

Men and women serve different, but equally important roles in the society and a family.

• Kristiane Backer



The equality of men and women in Islam goes back to the creation of Adam and Eve and their description in the Quran.

creatures whose purpose is to worship God, do righteous deeds, and avoid evil. On one occasion, the Prophet of Mercy told his followers, “Women are the twin-halves of men”⁽⁴⁾ meaning neither is complete without the other. It takes both to make a whole.

The equality of men and women in Islam goes back to the creation of Adam and Eve and their description in the Quran. Muslims believe that Adam and Eve were not created identical, but made to complement each other. The Bible describes Eve as a temptress who enticed Adam to disobey God. But, according to the Quran, both Adam and Eve disobeyed God, both recognized and repented from their mistake, and God forgave both of them. Thus, Eve was not solely to be blamed. Unlike the Biblical teaching, menstruation and childbearing are not punishment from God on every woman for Eve’s disobedience. They are simply part of a women’s nature, the way God created women to play her role in the human family.

Islamic history provides Muslim women with successful role-models. Khadijah, the first wife of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was a successful business woman. In the early phases of the mission of the Prophet of Islam, women suffered persecution, exile, and martyrdom along with men. The early battles that threatened the very existence of Islam saw women nursing the injured, running supplies, and in some occasions, participating in the fighting. There is a strong academic tradition of Muslim women who look up to the earliest female scholars like Aisha and Umm Salama.

In the seventh century, Islam gave women rights and freedoms that have only been recently gained in the West. Historically, France gave women the right to own property only in 1938. American women won the right to vote in 1920. Gender inequality is still a hotly





debated issue in the US. Traditional Islamic law provides hundreds of provisions for women's rights including:

A woman's property is her own and cannot be seized by her husband
 Women cannot be denied the right to education
 Ruining a woman's reputation is a punishable offense.

A woman cannot be forced into marriage
 Women can file legal suits and testify in court.

Women can freely enter into contracts
 Spousal abuse is a punishable offense
 Women can seek divorce from their husbands.

Women receive equal pay for work.

A Muslim woman retains her own family name upon marriage, rather than taking the name of her husband. This symbolic act emphasizes that she remains her own person, with her own valid identity separate from that of her husband.

Unfortunately, Muslim societies do not live up to these ideals. Today, women's rights vary widely in the Muslim world, reflecting a great variety of cultures and range of modernization and economic development in Muslim nations. Culture and traditions often interfere or even overshadow the faith's true teachings. In some instances, local practices have no justification in the faith or violate the faith's teachings altogether like honor killings, female genital mutilation, and forced marriages.

A Muslim woman retains her own family name upon marriage, rather than taking the name of her husband.

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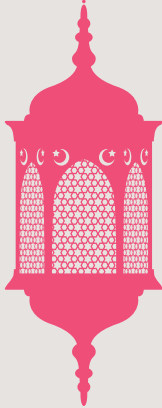


■ The status of women in Islam:

This video depicts the status of women in Islam and states the view of religions and nations towards women .It also indicates ideas of philosophers who helped degraded the status of women.

Before Islam, the woman was like a commodity that can be sold and bought. She was a source of cynicism for many people. She has no will. She was forced to marry and prostitute .She was inherited but inherited anything. She was owned but never owned anything . The husband had the right to act in his wife property, if ever she has a property, without her permission.

The video shows that Islam gives woman her full rights and stresses her role as a mother and in life at large. Islam put paradise under her feet when it says: (paradise is under the feet of mothers).









PART 7

TERRORISM & JIHAD



■ Terrorism & Jihad

Terrorism is the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population

- movement against the Nazi occupation of France



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The last part of the book will discuss the issue of Jihad and terrorism in some detail. No sane person will respect a religion, let alone think about adopting it if it promotes senseless terror and taking innocent life in the Name of God. The author hopes that a careful and impartial reading of this section will put the reader's mind and heart to rest about this matter. The historical and contemporary examples of terrorism from other faiths are not meant to malign them, but presented for the purpose of education.

What Is Terrorism?

Even though terrorism is perhaps the most commonly used word in the media today, evoking intense emotions, definitions of terrorism are complex and controversial. Encyclopedia Britannica defines terrorism as,

“The systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective.”⁽¹⁾

Some definitions treat all acts of terrorism, regardless of their political motivations, as simple criminal activity. For example, in the US the standard definition used by the FBI is “the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” The criminality, however, is problematic, because it does not account for cases in which violent attacks against a government may be legitimate. A frequently mentioned example is the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, which committed violent actions



against that country's apartheid government but commanded sympathy throughout the world. Another example is the Resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of France during World War II. This and similar problems have led some social scientists to adopt a definition of terrorism based not on criminality but on the fact that the victims of terrorist violence are most often innocent civilians.⁽²⁾

Brief History of Terrorism

The term 'terrorism' was first coined in the 1790s to refer to the terror used during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries against their opponents.⁽³⁾

Terror has been practiced by states and non-states throughout history and throughout the world. The ancient Greek historian Xenophon (c. 431–c. 350 BC) wrote of the effectiveness of psychological warfare against enemy populations. Roman emperors such as Tiberius (reigned CE 14–37) and Caligula (reigned CE 37–41) used banishment, expropriation of property, and execution as means to discourage opposition to their rule. The most commonly cited example of early terror, however, is traced to the Jewish Zealots known as the Sicarii (Hebrew: "Daggers"), who violently attacked fellow Hebrews suspected of collusion with the Roman authorities.⁽⁴⁾

In modern times terrorism has been practiced by political organizations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, intelligence services, and police⁽⁵⁾.

Establishment terrorism, often called state-sponsored terrorism, is employed by governments. The Soviet Union and its allies allegedly engaged in widespread support of international terrorism during the Cold War.⁽⁶⁾

The term 'terrorism' was first coined in the 1790s to refer to the terror used during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries against their opponents

- South Africa committed violent actions against that country's



Irgun was classified by British authorities as a terrorist organization and eventually became the Likud political alliance in Israel

- Irgun



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Religious Terrorism

All terrorists are not Muslims. The term “Muslim terrorist” is used to label Islam as a terrorist religion. It is a misnomer. When IRA bombers struck, they were not labeled as “Catholic terrorists” even though Protestant England supports Protestant Northern Ireland against Catholic Ireland. Likewise, when Timothy McVeigh blew up the FBI headquarters in 1995 killing 168 people, he was not labeled as a “Christian terrorist”, though he was Christian, a terrorist, and visited by a chaplain in prison. The following is a brief list of terrorist organizations within Judaism and Christianity. It is provided to demonstrate that to link terrorism exclusively with Islam is factually incorrect.

From Jewish Tradition

Historical groups:

(1) Irgun, a terrorist Zionist group that operated in the British Mandate of Palestine from 1931 to 1948.⁽⁷⁾ Irgun was classified by British authorities as a terrorist organization and eventually became the Likud political alliance in Israel. Irgun launched a series of attacks which lasted until the beginning of World War II, in which more than 250 Arab civilians were killed. In February of 1944, under the new leadership of Menachem

Begin, Irgun attacked civilian targets like the British civil headquarters, the King David Hotel, and the British prison in Acre. The participation in war crimes at Deir Yassin has been widely discussed and documented. Their largest single operation was a terrorist attack on Jaffa (an Arab enclave according to the UN partition plan).

(2) The Lehi group, otherwise known as “The Stern Gang”, a Zionist terror organization that sought an alliance with the Nazis against the British in Mandated Palestine and participated in many terrorist activities with Irgun.⁽⁸⁾



Present Groups:

The Jewish Defense League (JDL), a militant Jewish movement founded in 1968 by Rabbi Meir Kahane as a militant group to protect Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods in New York City. Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an American-Israeli physician and JDL member massacred twenty-nine Arabs in Hebron in February 1994. On December 12, 2001, Irv Rubin, JDL International Chairman, and Earl Krugel, a member of the organization, were charged with conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism. The two were accused of planning attacks on Arab-American Congressman Darrell Issa's office and on the King Fahd Mosque in Culver City, California.

From Christian Tradition

Historical Groups

Teutonic Knights in the 1100s invaded and forcibly converted pagan Lithuanians.

Other examples are the Medieval Inquisition, the Spanish Inquisition, the Portuguese Inquisition and the Roman Inquisition, an office of the Roman Catholic Church charged with suppressing heresy.

Ku Klux Klan, a racist Protestant Christian organization founded during the Reconstruction in the former Confederate States of America, also committed terrorist activities.⁽⁹⁾

Present Groups

In the United States, the most frequent example of Christian terrorism include the murder and bombing of abortion providers by self-professed Christian anti-abortion extremists.

Neo-Nazi, white supremacist terrorist organization, The Order, was active in the 1980s and led by Robert Mathews, an American who led bank robberies and bombings of theaters and synagogues. He was burned to

Ku Klux Klan, a racist Protestant Christian organization founded during the Reconstruction in the former Confederate States of America

- Ku Klux Klan



Weapons are raised in Islam for defending the religion and the weak, not to attack civilians or target non-combatants

- Joseph Kony



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death in 1984 in a shoot-out with the FBI. Timothy McVeigh considered by the FBI an American domestic terrorist, was executed for his part in the 1995, Oklahoma City bombing which killed 167 men, women and children. Outside of US, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA),⁽¹⁰⁾ formed in 1987, is a terrorist group in Uganda. It is led by Joseph Kony who wishes to establish a state based on Biblical millenarianism. It is estimated that around 20,000 children have been kidnapped by the group since 1987 for use as soldiers and sex slaves. In Atiak massacre (April 22, 1995) between 170 and 220 civilians were killed. In the Helicopter gunship incident (August 31, 1995) 13 civilians with their hands tied behind their backs were killed. In the Achol-pi Refugee Settlement massacre (July 13–14, 1996) three separate attacks made upon a settlement of Sudanese refugees in southern Kitgum administered by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees killed 100 refugees. In the Lokung/Palabek massacre (January 7–January 12, 1997) up to 412 civilians were bludgeoned or hacked to death. In Barlonyo massacre (February 21, 2004) over 200 civilians were murdered.

Islam against shedding blood

If a lie is repeated enough, people begin to believe it to be true. And the media performs a big role in it as George Santayana summed it: "Advertising is the modern substitute for argument." Today, Islam is held synonymous by some to terrorism, whereas Islam condemns and denounces it. Islam holds human life, wealth, and dignity to be sacred. An aggression against life, wealth, and honor without any right to do so is a deadly sin that invites divine anger. Combat was ordained in Islam to prevent war and aggression and to spread justice. Weapons are raised in Islam for defending the religion and the weak, not to attack civilians or target



non-combatants. Military actions are taken only against combatants and those who assist in aggression.

Acts of sabotage and violence to terrify civilians, shed blood, and inflict harm on people are forbidden. Islam is a religion that does not permit frightening people by the threat of using arms, let alone actually using them! More so, Islam prohibits all forms of violence, terrorism, sabotage, and destruction, and demands the heaviest punishment on those who commit such vicious acts.

Islam is a religion that destined the cruel woman to Hell Fire who imprisoned a cat and prevented it from eating and drinking until it died. Islam is a religion that tells us how God appreciated a man who saved the life of a thirsty dog when he found it licking mud. Omar The Just, the second successor of the Prophet of Islam, held himself fully responsible before God for a mule that stumbled in faraway Iraq and got hurt because the street was not paved!

A religion like Islam would never permit shedding blood, stealing money, and committing vicious acts against the life, honor, and dignity of innocent people, whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims. God has ordained in the Quran, “If anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or to spread mischief in the land It would be as if he killed all mankind, And if anyone saved a life, It would be as if he saved the life of all mankind.”⁽¹¹⁾

Jihad or Terrorism?

Translated by the popular Western media as “holy war,” jihad is a misunderstood doctrine of Islam. The Arabic language does not have an equivalent term to “holy war.” The Arabic word jihad means “striving” or “struggle”. In Islam to refer to a variety of different efforts required of the faithful. Struggling to keep God and His Prophet before ones wealth and selfish desires is the most basic form of “jihad”

Islam is a religion that tells us how God appreciated a man who saved the life of a thirsty dog when he found it licking mud



The Quran emphasizes that peace, not violence is the norm. At the same time, Islam permits self-defense

prescribed on every Muslim. Struggling to do good works prescribed by God is “jihad.” The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was reported to have said, “The best jihad is the perfect pilgrimage (Hajj).”⁽¹²⁾ On another occasion, someone asked the Prophet if he should join an armed expedition. The Prophet asked him whether his parents were still alive and when he replied in the affirmative, the Prophet said, “Make jihad by serving them.”⁽¹³⁾

Like all scriptures, Islamic texts must be read within the historical and socio-political contexts in which they were revealed. It should not be surprising that the Quran, like the Old Testament, addresses conduct of war. The Islamic community emerged in a rough neighborhood. Arabia in which Prophet Muhammad ﷺ lived and received God’s revelation, was beset by tribal raids and cycles of vengeance and vendetta. Arabia was located between two warring superpowers, the Roman and the Persian empires. The Quran provided detailed guidelines and regulations regarding the conduct of war: who is to fight and who is exempted, when hostilities must cease, and how prisoners should be treated.

First, the Quran emphasizes that peace, not violence is the norm. At the same time, Islam permits self-defense. In early Islam, defending faith and the community under violent attack by an enemy was the primary aspect

of the physical jihad which involved taking up arms. The reason for fighting an aggressor is not his disbelief, but his aggression. God states in the Quran, “Permission to fight has been given to those who have been attacked Because they are wronged. And indeed, God is Most Powerful.”⁽¹⁴⁾

“Fight in the cause of God against those who fight against you, But do not transgress the limits. Indeed God does not love transgressors.”⁽¹⁵⁾

Permission to fight the aggression is balanced by encouragement for making peace: “If your





enemy inclines toward peace, Then you too should seek peace And put your trust in God.”⁽¹⁶⁾

Second, the Quran stresses that the response to aggression must be proportional: “Whoever transgresses against you, Respond in kind.”⁽¹⁷⁾

Third, from its inception, Islam forbade killing noncombatants, women, children, monks, and rabbis, who were given immunity unless they took part in fighting.

Islamic Stand on Suicide Bombings

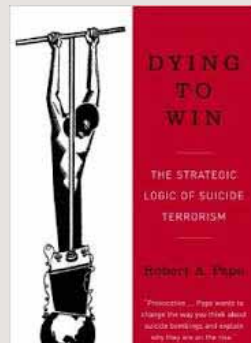
High profile suicide bombings have been committed in the West and in many Muslim countries by terrorists professing to be Muslim. What does Islam say about suicide and suicide bombings? Taking one’s life and suicide bombings both are impermissible in Islam.

Then, the question arises, why are terrorists going around committing suicide and spreading terror? The connection between suicide bombings and Islam has been studied by Prof. Robert Pape of the University of Chicago and author of the book, ‘Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.’ In ‘Blowing Up an Assumption, a New York Times editorial published on Wednesday, 18 May 2005, he wrote, ‘Since Muslim terrorists professing religious motives have perpetrated many of the attacks, it might seem obvious that Islamic fundamentalism is the central cause, and thus the wholesale transformation of Muslim societies into secular democracies, even at the barrel of a gun, is the obvious solution. However, the presumed connection between suicide terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism is misleading, and it may spur American policies that are likely to worsen the situation.

The leading instigator of suicide attacks is the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, a Marxist-Leninist group whose members are from Hindu families but who are adamantly opposed

Islam forbade killing noncombatants, women, children, monks, and rabbis, who were given immunity unless they took part in fighting

• Robert Pape



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- September 11



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to religion. This group committed 76 of the 315 incidents, more than Hamas (54) or Islamic Jihad (27). Even among Muslims, secular groups like the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Al Aksa Martyr Brigades account for more than a third of suicide attacks...'

Terrorist Acts Condemned by Islamic Scholars

Many people raise the question that if Muslims are so opposed to what terrorists do in the name of Islam, why Muslims don't do something about it. In order for a group to have a unified stand on an issue, there needs to be an established body or organization that takes a position, renders a verdict, formulates a statement, and articulates a response that speaks for the group. We see this type of thing in many churches where there is some assembly or individual that has the authority to speak for the community. For example, the Pope and synods of bishops often function in this capacity in the Catholic Church.

First, an exact parallel structure does not exist in Islam since it lacks a clergy and institutionalized hierarchy. To its advantage, this fosters a greater sense of democracy within a community and encourage involvement among all members.

Second, the recognized and well known scholars of Islam are the voice of authority within the Islamic community. Different councils of Islamic scholars exist. Some countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt have councils of their leading scholars. To find out the Islamic stand on terrorism, one sees that September 11 (and subsequent terrorist acts) were condemned by virtually all Islamic scholars, leaders, councils, organizations, and countries, yet they received little or no media coverage. Muslims have condemned terrorism and distanced themselves from it,



but few chose to listen.

The 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration On International Terrorism' by the foreign ministers of Muslim countries held in 2002 unanimously condemned terrorism.⁽¹⁸⁾

More than 50 professors of Islamic Studies and Middle Eastern Studies from the US and Canada, and members of the American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA also condemned terrorism.⁽¹⁹⁾

The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, the highest religious authority of the country, said at the time, 'that these matters that have taken place in the United States and whatever else is of their nature of plane hijackings and taking people hostage or killing innocent people, without a just cause, this is nothing but a manifestation of injustice, oppression and tyranny, which the Islamic Law does not sanction or accept, rather it is expressly forbidden and it is amongst the greatest of sins.'⁽²⁰⁾

Also, Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, a well-known Islamic scholar much respected in the Arab world, condemned attacks against civilians as forbidden in Islam.⁽²¹⁾

In conclusion, terrorism is not jihad and terrorists are not holy warriors. Islam does not instruct believers to threaten and attack civilians. Islam does not command Muslims to randomly kill the "infidels" and terrorize civilians. Terrorists go beyond the Islamic criteria for a just war and recognize no limits, employing any weapons or means. They reject Islamic law's regulations regarding the goals and legitimate means for a just war: that violence must be proportional and that only the necessary amount of force should be used to repel the enemy, innocent civilians should not be targeted, and that war must be declared by the ruler or head of state. Today, misguided individuals and groups have seized the right to declare illegitimate and unholy wars of terrorism in the name of Islam.

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13. Bukhari
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16. Quran 8:61
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■ Steps to Become Muslim

The word “Muslim” means one who submits to God, regardless of race, nationality, or ethnic background. Becoming a Muslim is a simple and easy process that requires no complex rituals or ceremony. You may convert alone in privacy or you may do so in the presence of others. The actual act of accepting Islam is between you and your Creator.

If anyone has a genuine desire to be a Muslim and has full conviction and strong belief that Islam is the true religion of God, then all one needs to do is pronounce the “Shahada”, the testimony of faith, without delay. With the pronouncement of this testimony, or “Shahada”, with sincere belief and conviction, one enters the fold of Islam.


Upon entering the fold of Islam solely for the pleasure of God, all your previous sins are forgiven, and you start a new life. Your record is clean and it is as if you were just born. You should try as much as possible to maintain this clean record and strive to do as many good deeds as possible.

The Prophet Muhammad, the final Prophet of God, said:

“Whoever testifies that there is none worthy of being worshipped but God, Alone without partner; and that Muhammad is His servant and Prophet; and that Jesus is the servant of God, His Prophet, and His word which He bestowed upon Mary and a spirit created from Him; and that Paradise (Heaven) is true, and that the Hellfire is true; God will eventually admit him into Paradise, according to his deeds.” (Bukhari)



Only 5 Steps

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1. Make sure that you know what it means to be a Muslim and that you are prepared to change your life for the better.
 2. Every action begins with intention. Make the intention in your heart to accept Islam purely for the sake of God.
 3. Say the 'Testimony of Faith' (Shahada).
You say, I testify "La ila-ha il-Allah, Muhammad Ra-soo lul-la"
The Arabic words mean, "There is no true god (no one is worthy of worship) except God (Allah in Arabic), and Muhammad is the (true) Messenger (and Prophet) of God" Once you say these words with conviction and understanding, you become a Muslim in the sight of God.
 4. Take a shower if you can. It symbolically cleanses you of your past life.
 5. To become a member of the Muslim community and participate in community events, find the nearest Islamic center or mosque and have witnesses present at your recitation of Shahada.

Witnesses are not required for you to become a Muslim. God knows all things, so saying the Shahada alone, with conviction, is enough to make you a Muslim in the sight of God. However, to be recognized as a Muslim within the Muslim community, you should say your Shahada in front of witnesses at a mosque or Islamic center. This becomes important when you want to go for Hajj (pilgrimage). A "certificate of Islam" may be required to prove that you are a Muslim. Contact your local Islamic center to obtain one.

Contact us at Contact@OsoullIslam.com with any questions. We are here for you.

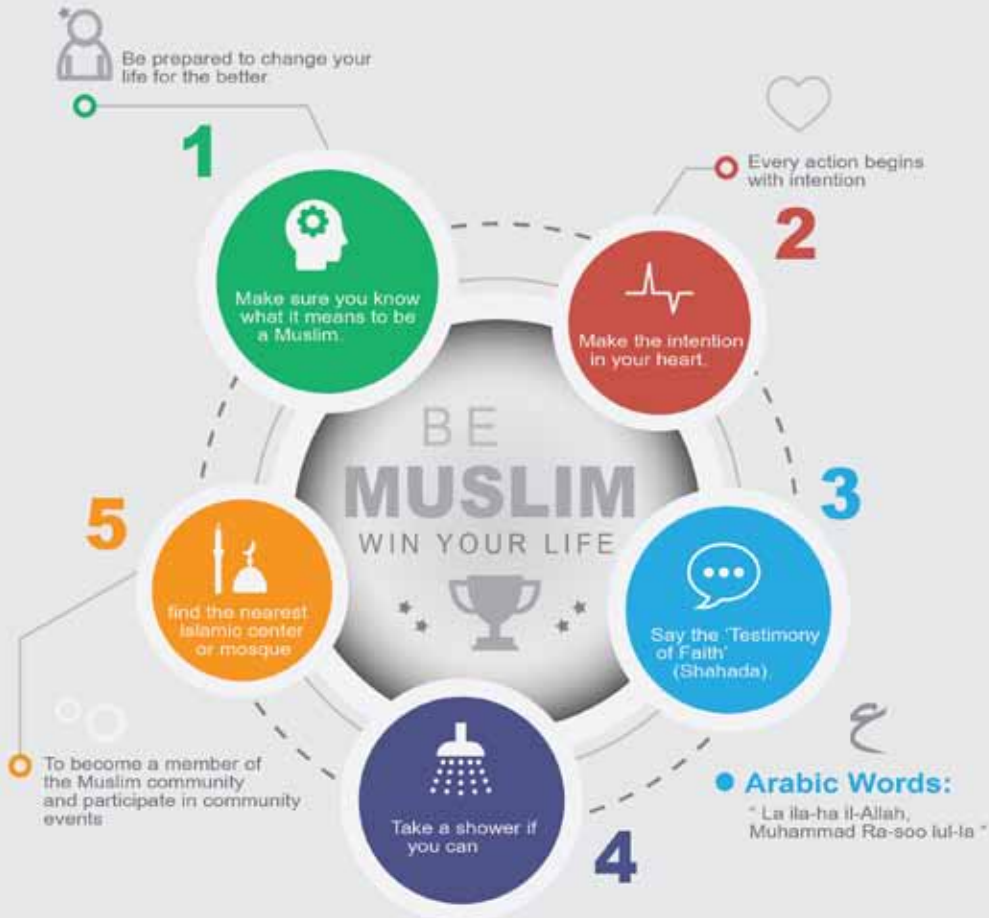
You can also become a Muslim through one of our consultants who can be reached here:

www.edialogue.org/index/en

People are usually scared that they might say the words wrong. Therefore, our support personnel will make the process stress free, guide you through the process, answer your questions, and help you get started in your journey to be a better human being.

If you still unsure or searching, pray to your Creator to guide you to the truth, and Islam teaches that God will guide you to the truth if you are sincere.

5 STEPS TO BE A MUSLIM



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The purpose of this book is to give a brief account of what the faith of Islam teaches, not of how some Muslims behave. In Islam, like other religions, there are differences between what the believers are taught by their faith and what many actually think and do.



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