

جمعية الدعوة والإرشاد
وتوعية الجاليات بحي السلامة
JEDDAH DAWAH CENTER



THIS IS ISLAM

هذا هو الإسلام
باللغة الإنجليزية

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Can we find an explanation to this great universe? Is there any convincing interpretation to the secret of existence? We realize that no family can function properly without a responsible head, that no city can prosperously exist without sound administration, and that no state can survive without a leader of some kind. We also realize that nothing comes into being on its own. Moreover, we observe that the universe exists and functions in the most orderly manner, and that it has survived for millions and millions of years. Can we, then, say that all this is accidental? Can we attribute the existence of man and the whole world to mere chance?

Man represents only a very small portion of the immense universe. And if he can make plans and appreciate the merits of planning, then his own existence and the survival of the universe must also be based on a planned policy. This means that there is a designing will behind our material existence, and that there is an extraordinary power to bring things into being and keep them moving in order.

In the world, then, there must be a great force in action to keep everything in harmony. In exquisite nature, there must be a great creator who fashions the most charming pieces of art and produces everything for a special purpose in life. The deeply enlightened people recognize this creator and call him God, or "Allaah". He is not a man because no man can create or make another man. He is neither an idol nor is He a statue of any kind because none of these things can make itself or create anything else. He is different from all of these things, because He is the maker and keeper of them all. The maker of anything must be different from and greater than the things that he makes.

There are various ways to know the true God "Allaah", and there are many things to tell about Him. The great wonders and impressive marvels of the world are like open books in which we can read about God. Besides, God Himself comes to our aid through the many messengers and revelations He has sent down to man. These messengers and revelations tell us everything we need to know about God.

The complete acceptance of the teachings and guidance of God "Allaah" as revealed to His last messenger Muhammad [peace be upon him] is the religion of Islam. Islam enjoins faith in the oneness

and sovereignty of God, which makes man aware of the meaningfulness of the Universe and of his place in it. This belief frees him from all fears and superstitions by making him conscious of the presence of Almighty Allaah and of man's obligations towards Him. This faith must be expressed and tested in action. Faith alone is not enough. Belief in one God requires that we look upon all humanity as one family under the universal power of God, the Creator and Sustainer of all. Islam rejects the idea of chosen people. Believing in the one God, and behaving according to His rules are the only way to Heaven. Thus, a direct relationship is established with God, without any intercessor.

Islam is not a new religion. It is, in essence, the same message and guidance which Allaah revealed to all prophets: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ismael, Isaac, David, Moses, and Jesus, may peace and the blessings of God be upon all the prophets. But the message which was revealed to prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] is Islam in its comprehensive, complete and final form.

The word "Islam" means "submission to the will of God". Thus, anyone who submits his will to the will of the Creator is considered initially to be a "Muslim."

The Qur'an is the last revealed word of Allaah and the basic source of Islamic teachings and laws. The Qur'an deals with the basis of creeds, morality, history of humanity, worship, knowledge, wisdom, God-man relationship, and human relationships in all aspects. Comprehensive teachings, on which can be built sound systems of social justice, economics, politics, legislation, jurisprudence, law and international relations, are important contents of the Qur'an. The Hadith, the teachings, sayings and actions of prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him], meticulously reported and collected by his devoted companions, explain and elaborate the Qur'anic verses.

THE FUNDAMENTAL ARTICLES OF FAITH IN ISLAM

The true and faithful Muslim believes in the following principal articles of faith:

1. He believes in One True God, "Allaah", Supreme and Eternal, Infinite and Mighty, Merciful and Compassionate, Creator and Provider.
2. He believes in all of the messengers of God without any discrimination among them. Every known nation had a warner or messenger from God.

They were chosen by God to teach mankind and deliver His divine message. The Qur'an mentions the names of twenty-five of them. Among them are Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Muhammad stands as the last messenger and the crowning glory of the foundation of prophethood.

3. Muslims believe in all the scriptures and revelations of God. They were the guiding lights, which the messengers received to show their respective people the right path of God. In the Qur'an, a special reference is made to the Torah, the Gospel, and scriptures of Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus. But long before the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad, some of those books and revelations had been lost or corrupted. The only authentic and complete book of God in existence today is the Qur'an.
4. The true Muslim believes in the angels of Allaah. They are purely spiritual and splendid beings whose nature requires no food or drink or sleep. They spend their days and nights in the worship of God.
5. Muslims believe in the Last Day, known as the Day of Judgement. This world will come to an end someday, and the dead will rise to stand for their final and fair trial. People with good records will be generously rewarded and warmly welcomed to the paradise of Allaah, and those with bad records will be punished and cast into Hell.
6. Muslims believe in the timeless knowledge of God and in His power to plan and execute His plans. They believe that nothing could happen in His Kingdom against His will. His knowledge, power and command are in action at all times over His creation. He is wise and merciful, and whatever He does must have a meaningful purpose. If this is established in our minds and hearts, we should accept with good faith all that He does, although we may fail to understand it fully.

Faith without action and practice is a dead end, as far as Islam is concerned. Faith by nature is very sensitive and can be most effective as a motivator in our lives. When it is out of practice or out of use, it quickly loses its liveliness and motivational power.

THERE ARE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM:

- 1. The Declaration of Faith:** To bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah, and that Muhammad is His messenger to all human beings till the Day of Judgement. The prophethood of Muhammad obliges Muslims to follow his exemplary life as a model.
- 2. Prayers:** Daily prayers are offered five times a day as a duty towards Allaah. They strengthen and enliven the belief in Allaah and inspire man to a higher morality. They purify the heart and prevent temptation towards wrongdoing and evils.
- 3. Zakaah:** The literal and simple meaning of Zakaah is purity. It is a charity and continued help to be given by the rich Muslims to the poor and needy Muslims annually.
- 4. Fasting the month of Ramadan:** During the month of Ramadan, Muslims not only abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to sunset but also from evil intentions and desires. Fasting teaches love, sincerity and devotion. It helps to develop a sound social conscience, patience, unselfishness and willpower.
- 5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah):** It is to be performed once in a lifetime, if one can afford it financially and physically.

Having said all this, it is clear that the religion of Islam is suitable for all of God's creation. God says in the Qur'an: "O you who believe! Observe your duties to God properly, as He deserves, and do not die except as Muslims!" God has made your intended purpose and path in this life clear. Submit your will to the will of the Creator and Sustainer of the Heavens and the Earth! So, we invite you to be a MUSLIM and say: **I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah and that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.** By saying this statement and fulfilling its meaning, you will be among the winners of Paradise.

Finally, we pray to Allaah, God Almighty, to guide humanity to His path.

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Benefit

Praise be to Allaah, the Almighty, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Universe, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), last of the Prophets, and upon all those who adhere to his example until the Day of Judgment.

Faith is the foundation upon which the whole structure of nations is based. Therefore, the progress of each nation is dependent upon the maintenance of its faith and ideology. Thus, all Prophets (peace be upon them) have called for true faith. Every Prophet told his people from the very beginning, "**Worship Allaah, the Almighty. You have no other god but Him**". "**We assuredly sent amongst every people an Apostle, (with the command), Serve Allaah and eschew evil**". This is because Allaah the Almighty created all people to worship Him alone and set up no associate to Him. "**I have only created jinns and men that they may worship Me**"

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