

ISLAM

TOP 50 QUESTIONS

Answered



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Compiled by
Saheeh International

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MUHAMMAD

Peace be upon him

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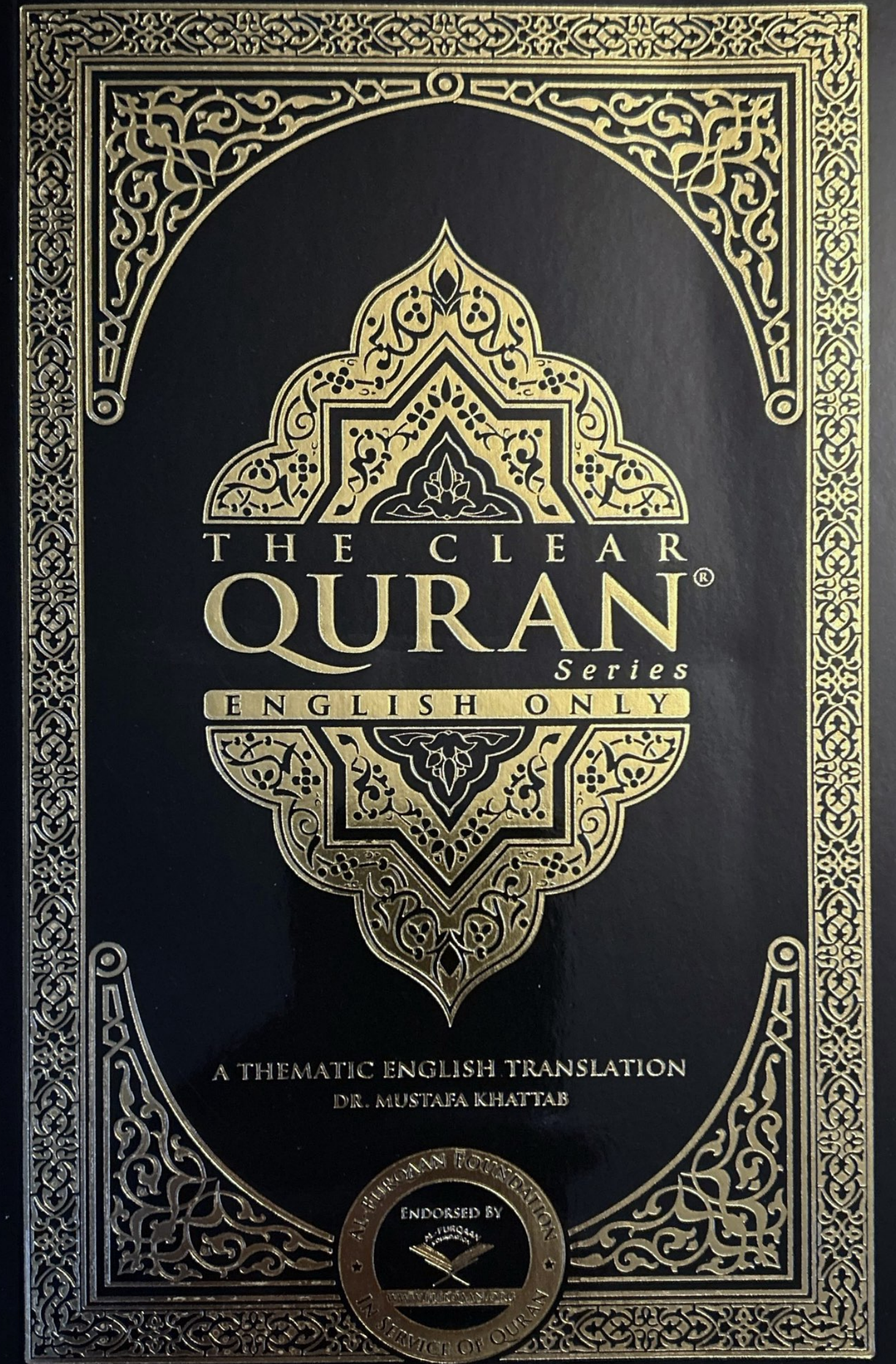


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THE CLEAR[®]
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ENGLISH ONLY

A THEMATIC ENGLISH TRANSLATION
DR. MUSTAFA KHATTAB



what is the
purpose
of **life?**

where
did I come from?

why
am I here?

where
am I going?



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what is the purpose of life?

Imagine you were walking in a desert and found a mobile phone... We know that a

phone consists of glass, plastic and metal. Glass comes from sand, plastic from oil and metal extracted from the ground - all these ingredients are found in the desert. Would you believe that the phone formed itself? That the Sun shone, the wind blew, lightning struck, the oil bubbled to the surface and mixed with the sand and metal, and over millions of years the phone came together by random or natural coincidences?

No one would believe such an explanation. A mobile phone is clearly something which was designed and constructed in an organised way, so it would be rational to believe it must have an organiser.

In the same way, when we see the order, precise laws and systems in the universe, is it not rational to believe the universe also has an organiser?

Proteins, the fundamental building blocks of living cells have a structure that is trillions of times more complex than a mobile phone, making it far more impossible for proteins to have been produced by random natural conditions.

the origin of the universe

Human experience shows us that something does not come from nothing. It is only rational there be a cause and a beginning. Furthermore, order does not spontaneously arise from chaos, so it would be logical to assume that the universe has a beginning and that something intelligent must have "caused" it. Now we ask, since the universe had a cause, what was the cause of that cause, and what was the cause of that cause, and so on? But this cannot go on forever and must end with a "first cause". This "first cause", by definition, does not have a cause, and therefore has always existed.

We can conclude that the "first cause" of the universe must be powerful and intelligent as it brought the whole universe into existence and created the 'laws of science' which govern it. Moreover, this "first cause" must be timeless and spaceless, because time, space and matter began at the creation of the universe.

All of these attributes of the "first cause" make up the basic concept of God. God is the uncreated first cause and creator of the universe. He is one, unique and eternal, whereas the creation is not.

the perfect balance of the universe

Many features in the universe clearly indicate it to be specifically designed to support life, such as the earth's distance from the sun, the thickness of the earth's crust, the speed at which the earth revolves, the percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere, and even the earth's angle of tilt. If these measurements were slightly different to what they currently are, life could not exist. The precise nature of these balances, laws and systems all point to the intelligent design of a powerful creator.

the creator is different from the creation

Can God become a man?

Some people believe that God became a man. God has attributes of perfection such as being All-Knowing, All-Powerful and Ever-Living. Man, however, lacks such perfection. Man has limited knowledge and power, and is mortal. How can anything be two complete opposites at the same time? This is not rational.

However, some may ask, "If God can do anything, why can't he become a man?" God always has attributes of perfection and it is outside His nature to do anything that would make deficient such perfection.

By definition, God does not do ungodly acts, as this

If God became man and took on human attributes, he would no longer be God.

would mean that He is no longer God. This same rationale applies to questions such as, "Can God stop existing?", "Can God make mistakes?", and "Can God become the devil?"

Could there be multiple Gods?

Had there been more than one God, it would reflect deficiency in His power or authority as this would involve God having rivalry or making compromises with other gods. This would lead to confusion, disorder, and even chaos in the universe. Rather, we find the universe is in complete harmony, so there can only ever be one entity that has absolute power and full authority.

God sends guidance

Upon acknowledging our creation by The All-Wise Creator, we would expect to be informed of our purpose. How can we know what God expects from us? Do we live our life in trial and error to make up our own purpose? Do we "go with the flow" by following others? No. God sent Prophets and revelation to inform us of His purpose.

Prophets of God

God sent thousands of Prophets, at least one to every nation, with the same message: to worship Him alone and to follow God's guidance. Such Prophets included Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (may peace be upon all of them).

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the last in the chain of Prophets, was the perfect example of an honest, just, compassionate and brave human being. He was sent with the final revelation from God, the Quran, to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied. He was illiterate and not educated in any scientific field: proof that he could not have authored the Quran.

How do I know that the Quran is truly from God?

Any claim of a divine book should be supported by clear evidence that it is truly from God. The Quran, the book of Islam, has such evidence.

Jesus, like all the other Prophets, performed miracles and called to the worship of The One true God.
Quran 19:36

Preservation

The Quran is the only sacred text that has been in circulation for a long period of time, yet remains as pure as the day it was revealed (over 1400 years ago) in its original Arabic language. Nothing has been added nor removed from it, and it is free from errors or contradictions.

Scientific Miracles

The Quran was revealed in the 7th century and contains many scientific facts that were unknown to the people of that time and have only been discovered recently by contemporary science using modern technology. Some of the many examples include:

- Water is the origin of all living things – Quran 21:30
- The universe is expanding – Quran 51:47
- The “floating orbit” of the sun and moon – Quran 21:33
- Detailed description of the development of the human embryo – Quran 23:12-14

Historical Miracles & Prophecies

The Quran is historically accurate. For example, the name “Haman” was not known until the decoding of Egyptian hieroglyphics in the 19th century, revealing that Haman was “the head of construction workers” of the Pharaoh. This aligns with what is recorded in the Quran (28:38) long before it could have been known by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) or the people of his time.

The Quran also contains predictions of future events, all of which have been fulfilled, such as stating that Pharaoh’s body will be preserved until the end of time (Quran, 10:91-92). Today, the preserved mummified body resides in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo for all to witness.

Unique Style & Universal Message

The Quran teaches that all people have equal access and opportunity to worship God alone without the distinction of race, status, power or gender.

The unique style and message of the Quran is evidence that it is from God. It teaches that there is one unique Creator whose nature is different from that of the creation. It does not compromise or distort this concept in any way - which appeals to man’s inherent beliefs about Almighty God.

SO... why am I here?

Everyone would acknowledge that our body parts, such as our eyes, ears, brains and hearts, have a purpose. Wouldn't it then make sense that the individual, as a whole, also has a purpose?

God, the All Wise, did not create us to simply wander aimlessly or to only fulfil our basic instincts and desires. Rather, we have a higher purpose - to acknowledge and worship God alone, so that we live upon the guidance of our Creator. This guidance enables us to live a successful and blessed life in all aspects. This includes personal acts of virtue like the prayer, as well as beneficial acts to society, like being good to one’s neighbours, supporting one’s family, honesty, and even caring for animals.

God forbids us from worshiping anything else (e.g. statues, the sun, the moon, saints, priests or even Prophets). He does not need any partners or intermediaries. Everyone always has direct access to worship God.

God describes this life as a test, and people are tested in different ways. We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we react. Patience during adversities, and gratitude for blessings, are a means of getting closer to God and attaining eternal Paradise. We are also warned of a terrible punishment in Hell if we choose to disbelieve and ignore His commands.

SO... what do I do now?

The test of one’s faith is in using one’s intellect to contemplate and recognise God’s signs and to live according to His guidance. This is done by submitting to God’s commands, which in Arabic means to become a “Muslim”.

God, the One and only Creator - ‘Allah’ in Arabic - has made Islam accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or current situation. Therefore, anyone can become a Muslim by simply believing in, and uttering the following testimony of faith:

“I testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger.”

Isn't it time for you to fulfil your purpose of life, submit to the Truth and acknowledge your Creator?

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about **Islam**

a brief

introduction



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about Islam

Belief and Worship of The One True God is the cornerstone of a Muslim's belief.

Many religions claim belief in One God however, they associate partners with Him. The following are examples:

- Worshipping or asking forgiveness of God through His creation
- Delegating some of God's attributes to other objects or beings
- Setting up rivals with God by elevating something to be in opposition to Him

The above mentioned beliefs or actions all go against the very principles of Islam.

about Allah

Allah is the Arabic word for the One True God.

The name "Allah" is the combination of two Arabic words, "Al" and "ilah". "Al" means "The", and "ilah" means "God". These two words come together and refer to "The God", which implies "The Only God", or "The Only True God".

Nothing else can be called Allah. The term has no plural or gender. This shows its uniqueness when compared with the word "god" which can be made plural (i.e. gods) or feminine (i.e. goddess).

Muslims believe that Allah is:

The One:

- Allah is One and has no partners at all
- Allah has no equals or associates
- Islam rejects characterising Allah in any human form
- None of His creation resembles Him
- There is nothing comparable to Allah
- No part of Allah is present in anyone (although His knowledge encompasses everything)

The Praiseworthy:

No being or object is worthy to be worshipped except Allah

Any worship and prayers directed towards (or through) saints, prophets, other human beings or nature is considered idolatry

Allah hears all who praise Him

Everyone has direct access to Allah

Muslims have a direct connection with Allah without the need for any intermediaries [such as idols, saints, angels, priests, planets, Jesus (peace be upon him), animals, graves or statues]

The All-Just:

Allah judges everyone based on their own deeds and everyone is accountable for his/her own actions

Humans may distinguish themselves and earn Allah's favor through virtue and piety only (not through race or wealth)

The Most High:

Allah is over His creation separated from them

Allah is high above being compared to anything

The All-Merciful:

Allah is incomparably more merciful to His creation than a mother to her baby

No one is "born into sin"

Allah is the only one who forgives sins.

The All-Powerful:

Allah has no rivals

The concept that Allah rested on the 7th day of creation has no basis in Islam

Allah has control over everything

Obedience to Allah does not increase His Power, and disobedience to Allah does not decrease His Power in any way

Not a leaf falls without the permission of Allah

To truly ponder the majesty of Allah makes one humble. This is what Allah calls us to do - to know Him through His attributes and names, realise His Omnipotence and Majesty, call upon Him, and humble ourselves to Him. Allah's beautiful names and attributes also include:

- The Creator and Sustainer
- The Forgiver and Pardoner
- The Appreciative
- The All-Knower and All-Aware
- The One who answers the one in need if he asks Him
- The One free and far removed from any deficiency
- The incomparably Great

about the Qur'an

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of God[†]. Together with the authentic sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), it is the main source of Islamic knowledge. The following are some verses that confirm what has been discussed:

"Allah is He, other than Whom there is no other god."
Qur'an 59:22

"So set no equals to Allah while you know (there is none equal to him)."
Qur'an 2:22

"And worship Allah and associate none with Him."
Qur'an 4:36

"There is nothing like Him and He hears and sees all things."
Qur'an 42:11

"Say: 'How do you worship besides Allah something which has no power either to harm or benefit you?'"
Qur'an 5:76

"Your Lord says: 'Call upon Me, I will answer you.'"
Qur'an 40:60

about prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him)

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in a long chain of Prophets sent to call the people to the obedience and worship of God alone. Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Joseph, Jacob, Abraham, David, Jesus and Moses (peace be upon them all).

Muslims do not worship or ask divine guidance of Muhammad (peace be upon him). He warned:

"Do not exceed bounds in praising me as the Christians do in praising Jesus, Son of Mary. I am only the Lord's servant; then call me the Servant of Allah and His Messenger."

Just as Moses (peace be upon him) was sent with the Torah² and that Jesus (peace be upon him) was sent with the Gospel³, Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Qur'an to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied

Some sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) include:

"Allah will not show mercy to him who does not show mercy to others."

"Look at the person who is below you; and do not look at one who is superior to you. Thereby you would be able to better appreciate the favours that God has bestowed upon you."

"The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."

"Among the best of you are they who have the best character."

"Be humble and do not harm or consider yourself superior to others."

"Do not consider even the smallest good deed as insignificant; even meeting your brother with a cheerful face."

about worship

We have established that Islam teaches that only God alone deserves worship. So what is worship?

Muslim scholars have defined "worship" as, "An all-inclusive term for those internal and external sayings and actions of a person that are pleasing to Allah."

In other words, the concept of worship in Islam is not limited to rituals such as praying, fasting, giving charity, and performing pilgrimage - it is much more.

A person can turn everyday activities into acts of worship by purifying his or her intention and sincerely seeking Allah's pleasure through these activities. Allah's Messenger (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

*"Greeting a person is charity.
Acting justly is charity.
Helping a man with his horse is charity. A good word is charity.
Every step taken on the way to performing prayers is charity.
Removing an obstacle from the road is charity."*

Even earning a living can be done for the sake of God if done for the right reasons (e.g. working to support a family). If however one works to show off or earn fame then this can not be considered worship.

The above might sound strange to those who view religion only as a personal relation between the individual and God and as having no impact on those activities that are not connected specifically with any religious rituals. For Muslims however, Islam is not just a religion, but a complete way of life.

¹ Any Qur'anic translation, either in English or any other language, is neither a Qur'an, nor a version of the Qur'an, but rather it is only a translation of the meaning of the Qur'an. The Qur'an exists only in the Arabic in which it was revealed.

^{2,3} Only the Qur'an has remained unchanged and preserved, while the other original revelations have been lost or corrupted.

Got Questions?

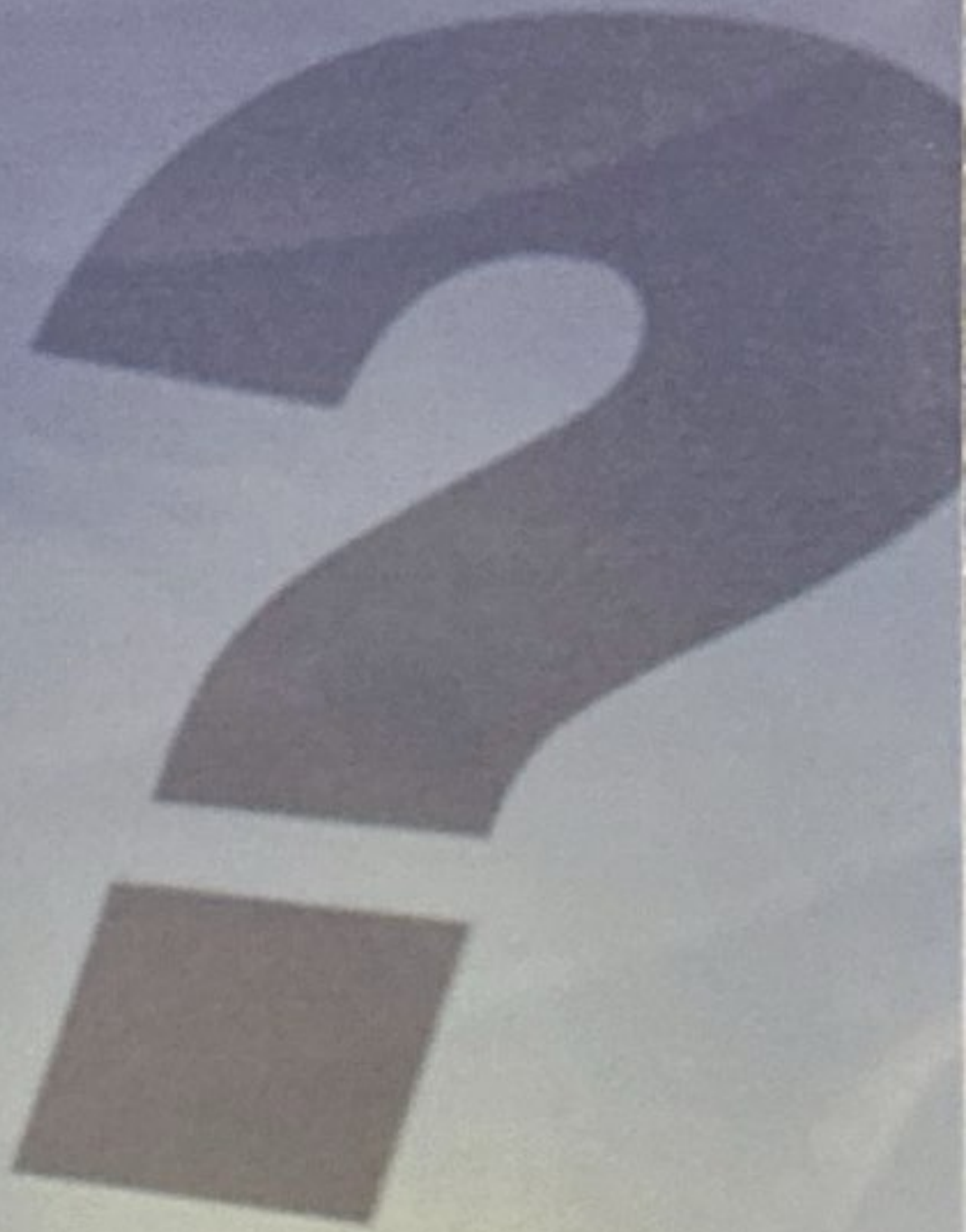
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misconceptions
about **Islam**



What do you
REALLY know?



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introduction

Have you ever wondered why a nun can be covered from head to toe and she's respected for devoting herself to God, but when a Muslim woman covers, she's viewed as "oppressed"? Or why a Jew can grow a beard and he's just practising his faith, and when a Muslim does that, he's an "extremist"?

People in the west seem to have many misconceptions about Muslims and Islam. Many believe that the western world is advanced, enlightened and liberated, while Islam is just the opposite: primitive, ignorant and oppressed. One reason for this belief is that the media has time and again portrayed the Muslims in a way contrary to Islamic teachings. The key to understanding Islam and Muslims is to resist stereotypes and examine each situation according to *Islamic teachings*, and **NOT some Muslims' actions**. For this reason, we have felt it our duty to address the most common misconceptions.



"Hijab is oppressive"

MISCONCEPTION #1

So what exactly is hijab? To observe the hijab, Muslim women are required to cover their body with modest clothes that do not reveal their figure in front of male strangers. However, hijab is not just about outer appearances; it is also about noble speech, dignified and righteous conduct, and modesty. It goes without saying that these manners are also required of men.

There is nothing in hijab that restricts a Muslim woman's freedom to express her views and opinion, to own property, to have an education and a career, or to choose a husband. The hijab is an act of honour and dignity, an empowerment, and a guarantee that a woman will be judged according to her inner spiritual beauty rather than her outer superficial appearance. The hijab liberates and raises a woman's status, and demands that she be judged according to her intellect rather than her sexuality.



"Islam oppresses women"

MISCONCEPTION #2

One of the most disturbing misconceptions is the negative portrayal of women in Islam – namely that Islam degrades and oppresses women. According to the teachings of Islam, the only thing that distinguishes people in the sight of God is their level of piety.

"Verily the most honourable of you in the sight of God is the most God conscious."

Qur'an 49:13

This verse proves that real honour and status is not attained because a person is rich or poor, black or white, male or female but attained through piety and devoutness. Therefore, it comes as no surprise to learn that for every male convert to Islam, four females convert. Some reasons for this overwhelming female conversion rate are due to the following rights enshrined in Islam:

- total control of their personal wealth separate from the wealth of their husbands who are responsible for sustaining the family.

The reason Muslim women observe hijab is simply because Allah (God) made it a compulsory act of worship for them, and Allah knows what is best for His creation.

The hijab gives women the freedom to be active members of society, while maintaining their modesty. The hijab is meant for the public, as women do not have to observe hijab when they are at home with their family.

The hijab does not symbolise suppression, oppression or silence. Rather, it is a shield guarding against degrading remarks, unwanted advances and unfair discrimination. Of all converts to Islam, 75% are women! Would you enter a religion that oppresses you? So the next time you see a Muslim woman, know that **she covers her physical appearance, not her mind or intellect**.

"O Prophet, tell your wives and daughters and the believing women to draw their outer garments around them (when they go out or are among men).

That is better in order that they may be known (to be chaste women) and not abused..."

Qur'an 33:59

- choose their spouse;
- keep their own last name when married;
- own property, operate a business, study, and receive equal pay for equal work;
- inherit property, and to have their marriage dissolved in the case of neglect or mistreatment;
- participate in all forms of worship that men participate in.

Islam guaranteed these rights, among many others, to women over 1400 years ago – rights that women in the West are still lacking.

"Whoever works righteousness whether male or female, while he (or she) is a believer – We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward (in the Hereafter) according to the best of what they used to do."

Qur'an 16:97

Without doubt, there are Muslim women who are oppressed and not given their rights. However, this is not the fault of Islam. The problem is that in many places in the world, culture and traditions have come to overshadow the teachings of Islam, either through ignorance or harmful cultural practices.

While Islam enshrines the rights of women, it also acknowledges the fact that men and women are **not identical**.

Allah says: "...and the male is not like the female..."

Qur'an: 3:36

Islam has therefore ordained different roles for men and women to reflect this undisputable fact. Women have been granted the honour and tremendous responsibility of caring for the family and the household. While men have been given the responsibility of providing financial support, security and maintenance for the family and the household.

In conclusion, the noble position of women in Islam can be summarised by the following saying of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"The world and all things in the world are precious, but the most precious thing in the world is a virtuous woman."



“Muslims worship a new God called Allah”

MISCONCEPTION #3

Some non-Muslims incorrectly believe that Muslims worship a different God than Jews and Christians. This might be due to the fact that Muslims sometimes refer to God as “Allah”. In actuality, Muslims worship the God of Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. The word “Allah” is simply the Arabic word for Almighty God - an Arabic word of rich meaning, denoting the One and Only God. Allah is also the same word that Arabic speaking Christians and Jews use to refer to God. If you pick up an Arabic translation of the Christian Bible, you will see the word “Allah” where “God” is used in English.

However, although Muslims, Jews and Christians believe in the same God (the Creator), their concepts regarding Him differ significantly. For example, Muslims reject the idea of God having any partners or being part of a ‘trinity’, and ascribe perfection only to The Almighty.



“Islam permits terrorism”

MISCONCEPTION #4

This is perhaps the biggest misconception about Islam, especially given the constant stereotyping by the media. The media portrays as a terrorist any Muslim who fights regardless of whether they fight justly or unjustly, or whether they are oppressing others or being oppressed. So the question that comes to mind is: Does Islam encourage terrorism? **Certainly not!** Islam totally forbids and condemns the misguided acts of vigilantes that target innocent civilians.

Of course, Islam does not remain silent in the face of oppression, injustice and humiliation. Any religion or civilization that does, would never survive --- but it certainly does not condone attacks against defenseless men, women and children.

Allah says:

“Fight in the way of Allah those who fight against you but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors.”

Qur’ran 2:190

Even during times of war, Islam lays down strict rules. For example, a Muslim is not allowed to harm or kill those in a peace treaty with Muslims, non-combatants, women, minors, servants, the blind, monks, the elderly, those physically incapable of fighting, and the mentally ill. In fact, Muslims are not even allowed to damage crops and vegetation during times of war. These noble ethics were, and still remain, unheard of in any army.

The Qur’an clearly demonstrates the seriousness of killing an innocent person, and emphasises the value of human life. At the same time it also instructs muslims to treat people of other faiths with kindness.

“If anyone murders an (innocent) person, it will be as if he has murdered the whole of humanity. And if anyone saves a person it will be as if he has saved the whole of humanity.”
Qur’an 5:32

“Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes. Indeed, Allah loves those who deal with equity.”
Qur’an 60:8

How, after reading these clear verses of the Qur’an, can Islam be blamed for what is done by terrorists?

conclusion

So many attempts have been made to portray Islam as a religion that is both strange and foreign to people’s normal instincts and values. In deciding upon what to make of Islam, remember this:

- Who stands to gain from perpetuating such misconceptions and untruths?
- Have you researched about Islam yourself, as opposed to what you have heard from others and the media?
- Would millions of people all over the world embrace Islam if it was a harsh and inhumane way of life?

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ISLAM IS NOT A RELIGION OF EXTREMISM

“ ...Whosoever kills an
innocent human being, it shall
be as if he has killed all mankind,
and whosoever saves the life of one,
it shall be as if he had saved the
life of all mankind... **”**

Quran 5:32



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Islam...

an extreme religion?

"Islamic terrorists!" "Muslim fundamentalists!" "Extremists!" "Radical Islamists!" These are just some labels that have been wrongly applied to Muslims and certain Muslim groups in recent years.

The media's portrayal of Islam often misleads those whose knowledge of the religion is limited, into making negative assumptions about this very peaceful and tolerant way of life.

Barack Obama, The US President said at Cairo University in 2009:

"America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles of justice and progress, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings."

"Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism – it is an important part of promoting peace."

In an article published by PEW Research center on Sept 13, 2010:

"Most Americans say they do not know much about the religion of Islam. A majority admits to knowing very little (30%) or nothing at all (25%) about the Muslim religion. Just a little more than a third (35%) know "some" about the religion, and only 9% say they know a great deal".

Is it then, any wonder that most people associate Islam with terrorism?

The prevalence of media bias and ignorance regarding Islam can be countered by understanding Islam through its proper teachings. That means referring to the Qur'an (which Muslims believe to be the word of God) and the authentic sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Through the proper understanding of these teachings, one will discover Islam to be completely against any form of extremism.

How the Quran can be misunderstood

When reading through the Qur'an or the sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him), one must understand the context in which the wording applies.

The following verse of the Qur'an is a favourite amongst those seeking to mislead people about Islam:

"And kill them wherever you find them, and expel them from where they expelled you, as persecuting people to sway them from God's Religion is worse than killing. But do not fight them at the Sacred Mosque, unless they fight you there. But if they do fight you, then slay them; This is the recompense of the disbelievers."

Qur'an 2:191

On occasions, this verse has been dangerously trimmed down to the following:

"And kill them wherever you find them..." - Qur'an 2:191

The obvious question is, "Kill who?". To answer this question, one should read the verses before and after verse 2:191.

"And fight in the way of Allah those who fight with you, and do not exceed the limits, surely Allah does not love those who exceed the limits." - Qur'an 2:190

The above verse mentions fighting as a means of self defence (i.e. with those who fight you). The verse after 2:191 is:

"But if they cease, Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful." Qur'an 2:192

These verses were revealed at a time when the Muslims had been expelled from their homes on account of their faith. They endured more than ten years of persecution and eventually had to flee to a safe land.

The above verses were referring to the Arab pagans of Mecca during the Prophet's time, who oppressed the Muslims and planned to attack them where the Muslims sought refuge.

Hence, the above verse can only be applied in such circumstances.

This example demonstrates that verses in the Qur'an should be understood in their proper context since verses were revealed in stages in relation to particular situations, over a period of 23 years. It is also important to note that the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic. Therefore, translations into different languages may be misleading and/or inaccurate.

Permissible fighting/warfare

There can be no doubt that Muslims (like anybody else) have a legitimate right to fight against aggression or when oppressed.

Islam teaches that warfare is permitted in order to protect the wellbeing of the community or to prevent oppression from spreading - this may be in the context of defensive or offensive warfare depending on the particular situation. Islam, just

like any 'way of life' that wants to ensure its survival, has the right to defend itself when war is declared against it. In the Qur'an we read:

However, when the enemy ceases its hostility, Muslims are commanded to cease fighting.

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged."

Qur'an 22:39

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it and trust in God; surely He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower."

Qur'an 8:61

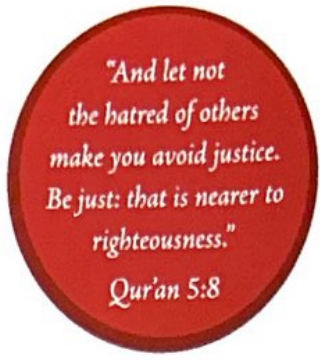
Abu Bakr (may God be pleased with him), Prophet Mohammad's closest friend and first successor, spoke of the Islamic approach to war by highlighting the following:

In the battlefield, one should not:

- commit treachery
- mutilate the dead
- deviate from the right path
- kill a woman, child or aged man
- harm or burn trees, especially the fruitful
- slay the enemy's flock, except for food
- harm those who devote their life to worship

As we read in verse 2:190, Allah commands Muslims not to go to extremes by saying, **“Do not transgress the limits.”**

A situation of war is no excuse to go beyond boundaries. Islam teaches the avoidance of blind retaliation.



Terrorism in perspective

The problem with putting terrorism into perspective is that there is no agreed-upon definition of what constitutes “terrorism”. Also, terrorism takes many forms, as the following examples illustrate.

Robert Fisk, from *The Independent*, writes: **“Israel and Israel’s militia allies (on 16 September 1982) started their three-day orgy of rape, knifing and murder in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila that cost 1,800 lives. It followed an Israeli invasion of Lebanon designed to drive the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) out of the country and given the green light [by the United States] which cost the lives of 17,500 Lebanese and Palestinians, almost all of them civilians.”**

According to Professor Noam Chomsky, **“It’s uncontroversial that the United States is a leading terrorist state. In fact, it’s the only state that was condemned for international terrorism by the highest bodies: the International Court of Justice in 1986.”**

Similarly, **“The horrific massacre of 8,000 Muslims - some unarmed - at Srebrenica in 1995 never led to a stream of pieces about the violence and repressive tendencies of Christianity.”** - William Dalrymple, *The Independent UK*.

“The carnage wrought by Western, ostensibly Christian, leaders over the last six decades - including a world war and a cold war, a Holocaust, two atomic bombs, repression of wars of independence, the fuelling of proxy wars, nuclear brinkmanship, and the support of dictators and state and non-state terrorists - makes it spurious to view Islam as a more inherently violent religion or civilisation.” - Rama Mani (Geneva Centre for Security Policy)

There are many other examples of both Jewish and Christian terrorism, however, we must never generalise and call all Christians and Jews terrorists. Similarly, we should not put all Muslims on trial but only those that committed the crime should be judged.

Islam denounces terrorism

The act of inciting terror in the hearts of defenceless civilians, the wholesale destruction of buildings and properties, the bombing and maiming of innocent men, women and children are all forbidden and detestable acts according to Islam and the Muslims. This is regardless of any type of terrorism, including western state-sponsored terrorism which has killed, injured and displaced infinitely more people than all other types of terrorism.

If an individual Muslim were to commit an act of terrorism, this person would be guilty of violating the laws of the very religion they claim to follow - Islam. Would it be fair to condemn all Muslims as a result, when the religion itself is against such acts? Muslims follow a religion of submission to God, peace, mercy, and forgiveness. The vast majority have nothing to do with the violent events some - notably the media - have associated with Muslims. Islam is not a religion of extremism.

“Allah does not forbid you from showing kindness and dealing justly with those who have not fought you about religion and have not driven you out of your homes. Allah loves those who are just.”

Qur'an 60:8

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the **hijab**

reflections
by muslim
women



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my journey to freedom

BY SUMAYYAH JOAN

It will be three years since I stood before two Muslim sisters and declared openly my belief in God (Allah) and His Messenger, peace be upon him, and thus freeing and liberating myself from my former self-imposed bondage. Stepping out of the darkness of disbelief into the light of Islam, it's funny that I found such freedom in the very thing that was keeping me from Islam in the first place - the hijab.

Even though I get the wide gamut of strange stares, points and comments, this covering makes me feel honored, safe and cherished.

The word hijab comes from the Arabic word "hajaba" meaning to hide from view or to conceal. Women who don't reveal their beauty in this society and give in to this oppressive system, are looked upon as invisible, without sexuality and backward. Because I'm often mistaken for a nun, or terrorist, I feel the reactions to the hijab for many women, is the truest test of being a Muslim.

But in reality, the hijab is easy!

In instructing us to wear the hijab, Allah has given Muslim women what they can bear of injunctions and obligations. For Allah says:

"And we do not lay on any soul a burden except to the extent of its ability, and with Us (God) is a Book which speaks the truth..." Qur'an 23:62

Unfortunately, Satan and his cohorts are calling the Muslim woman to enslave her to the creation, and to forget about her servitude to her Creator. Chastity, modesty and piety are deceptively marked as shackles on personal freedom.

Allah warns the believers that they should not let Satan deceive them, as he deceived their parents, Adam and Eve. Under the guises of fashion, culture, and modernism, Satan has succeeded and is succeeding to lead a majority of women into immodesty.

Since the heyday of the feminist movement, there has been an increasing amount of scrutiny placed on the dress and status of Muslim women.

According to these "liberated" women, the hijab not only covers the head, but also covers the mind, will and intellect. They say that our dress code is outdated and oppressive, and it stops us from being productive human beings. They speak out of ignorance when they say that our hijab does not belong in these modern times, when due to the constant decrease in moral values in the world today, circumstances make the hijab even more necessary.

From the dawn of civilisation, flowing dresses and headscarves have always been associated with "Godliness" or "God consciousness". Even the Christian pictorial representation of the earlier prophets and their womenfolk bear familiar likeness to the dress ordained for Muslim men and women (e.g. Mary). This tradition of modesty is reflected in the Qur'an (7:26), wherein Allah says:

"O Children of Adam! We (God) have bestowed clothing upon you to cover yourselves and as an adornment (for beauty); and the clothing of righteousness - that is best."

Allah enjoined hijab on the Muslim woman to protect her from harm.

He knows His creation, and knows that when women make a dazzling display of themselves, with immodest clothes, perfumed bodies and made-up faces, it serves to increase the sexual deviance of the overall society. Many of those who are misguided however, would have us think that the hijab is a portable prison that restricts our minds, lives and hearts. It is none of these things, and in order not to fall victim to their plots, we must begin to understand what the hijab truly is - a source of liberation, dignity and protection.

What the Hijab is...

- ✔ An act of Obedience to The Creator
- ✔ An act of Honour & Dignity
- ✔ An act of Belief & Faith
- ✔ An act of Modesty
- ✔ An act of Purity
- ✔ An act of Bashfulness
- ✔ An act of Righteousness
- ✔ A Shield

What the Hijab is NOT...

- ✘ It is *NOT* something new. Muslim women follow the example of righteous women in the past such as Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- ✘ It is *NOT* a symbol of oppression.
- ✘ It is *NOT* required in non-public places where there are only muslim females and close male relatives.
- ✘ It is *NOT* a means to restrict a woman's freedom to express her views and opinion, or to have an education and a career.
- ✘ It is *NOT* an act of defiance, confrontation or protest to non-Muslims.
- ✘ It is *NOT* a portable prison.

"Indeed, the men who submit and the women who submit, the believing men and the believing women, the obedient men and the obedient women, the truthful men and the truthful women, the patient men and the patient women, the humble men and the humble women, the charitable men and the charitable women, the fasting men and the fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allah often and the women who remember - Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward." Qur'an 33:35

v1.02

society's view of hijab

BY NAHEED MUSTAFA

MY BODY IS MY OWN BUSINESS

I often wonder whether people see me as a radical, fundamentalist Muslim terrorist packing an AK-47 assault rifle inside my jean jacket. Or maybe they see me as the poster girl for oppressed womanhood everywhere. I'm not sure which one it is.

I get the whole range of strange looks, stares, and covert glances. I wear the hijab, a scarf that covers my head, neck, and throat*. I do this because I am a Muslim woman who believes her body is her own private affair.

Young Muslim women are reclaiming the hijab, reinterpreting it in light of its original purpose to give back to women ultimate control of their own bodies.

The Qur'an teaches us that individuals should not be judged according to gender, beauty, wealth or privilege.

"Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." Qur'an 49:13

Nonetheless, people have a difficult time relating to me. After all, I'm young, Canadian born and raised and university educated, so why would I do this to myself, they ask?

Strangers speak to me in loud, slow English and often appear to be playing charades. They politely inquire how I like living in Canada and whether or not the cold bothers me. If I'm in the right mood, it can be very amusing.

But, why would I, a woman with all the advantages of a North American upbringing, suddenly, at 21, want to cover myself so that with the hijab and the other clothes I choose to wear, only my face and hands show?

Because it gives me freedom!

Women are taught from early childhood that their worth is proportional to their attractiveness. We feel compelled to pursue abstract notions of beauty, half realising that such a pursuit is futile.

When women reject this form of oppression, they face ridicule and contempt. Whether it's women who refuse to wear makeup, shave their legs, or expose their bodies, society-both men and women-have trouble dealing with them.

In the Western world, the hijab has come to symbolise either forced silence, or radical, unconscionable militancy. Actually it's neither. It is simply a woman's assertion that judgment of her physical person is to play no role whatsoever in social interaction.

Wearing the hijab has given me freedom from constant attention to my physical self.

Because my appearance is not subjected to public scrutiny, my beauty, or perhaps lack of it, has been removed from the realm of what can legitimately be discussed.

No one knows whether my hair looks as if I just stepped out of a salon, whether or not I can pinch an inch, or even if I have unsightly stretch marks. And because no one knows, no one cares.

Feeling that one has to meet the impossible male standards of beauty is tiring and often humiliating. I should know, I spent my entire teenage years trying to do it. I was a borderline bulimic and spent a lot of money I didn't have on potions and lotions in hopes of becoming the next Miss World.

The definition of beauty is ever-changing; waifish is good, waifish is bad, athletic is good - sorry, athletic is bad. Women are not going to achieve equality by putting their bodies on display, as some people would like to have you believe. That would only make us party to our own objectification. True equality will be had only when women don't need to display themselves to get attention and won't need to defend their decision to keep their bodies to themselves.

*Modest clothing and covering for Muslim women includes wearing loose and non-transparent clothing that covers the whole body except the face and palms. Some scholars also recommend the covering of the face.

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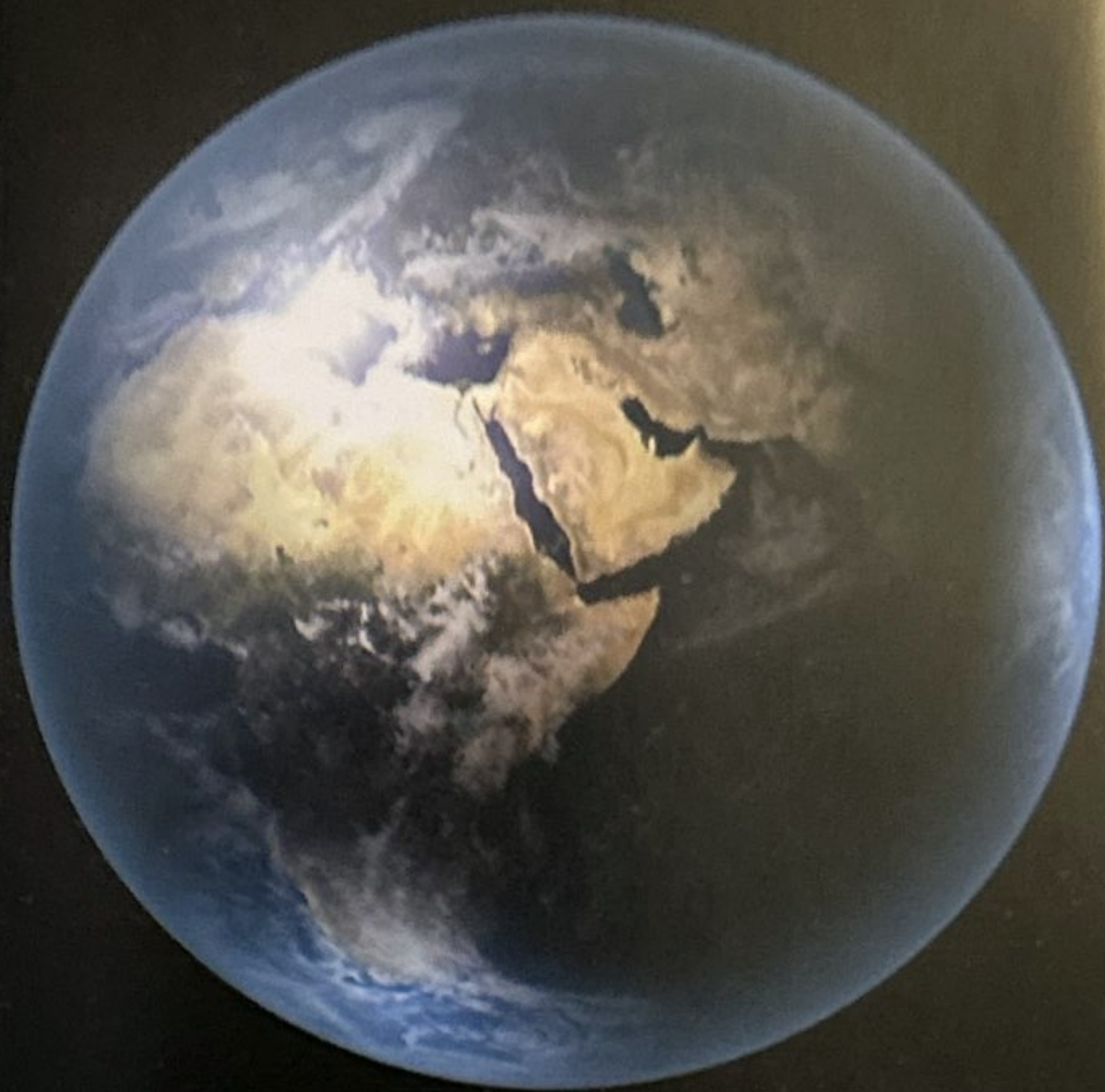
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Islamic Circle of North America

the **Quran &**
modern
Science



Gain Peace
...through Islam!

introduction

The Qur'an is the final revelation from God to humanity. Although the Qur'an, (revealed over fourteen centuries ago), is not primarily a book of science, it does contain scientific facts that have been scientifically discovered only recently through the advancement of technological equipment. Moreover, it does not promote an anti-scientific stance, but rather, encourages scientific research. Indeed, studying and understanding the nature of creation enables people to further appreciate their Creator and the extent of His Sovereignty.

human embryonic development

In the Qur'an, God speaks about the stages of man's embryonic development: "We created man from an extract of clay. Then We made him as a drop in a place of settlement, firmly fixed. Then We made the drop into an alaqah (leech, suspended thing, and blood clot), then We made the alaqah into a mudghah (chewed substance)..." Qur'an 23:12-14

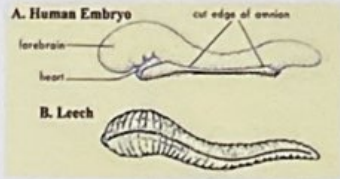


Figure 1: Drawings illustrating the similarities in appearance between a leech and a human embryo at the alaqah stage.

The Arabic word alaqah has three meanings: (1) leech – when comparing a leech to an embryo in the alaqah stage, we find similarities. Also, the embryo at this stage obtains nourishment from the blood of the mother, similar to a leech (see Figure 1). (2) suspended thing – this is what we can see in figure 2. (3) blood clot – the external appearance of the embryo and its sacs during the alaqah stage are similar to that of a blood clot. This is due to large amounts of blood present in the embryo during this stage (see Figure 3).

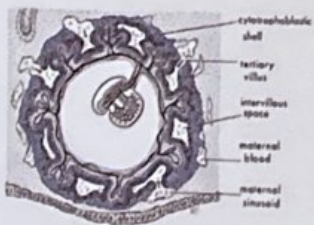


Figure 2: We can see in this diagram the suspension of an embryo during the alaqah stage in the womb (uterus) of the mother. (The Developing Human, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 66.)

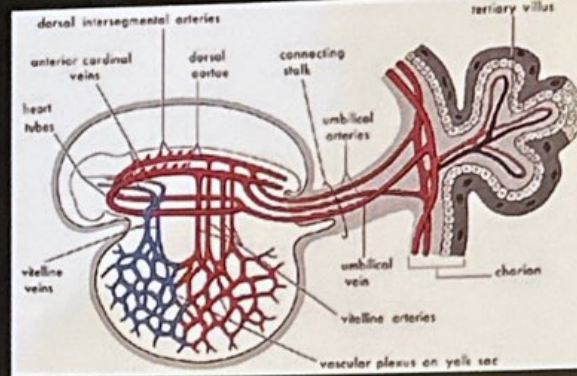


Figure 3: Diagram of the primitive cardiovascular system in an embryo during the alaqah stage. (The Developing Human, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 65.)

The next stage mentioned is the mudghah stage which means "chewed substance." If one were to chew a piece of gum and compare it to the embryo at this stage, we would conclude that the embryo resembles a chewed substance. This is due to somites (cells that form the vertebrae) at the back of the embryo that, according to Dr. Moore and Persaud, "somewhat resemble teeth marks in a chewed substance." See Figure 4.

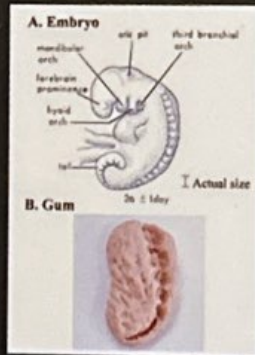


Figure 4: A) Drawing of an embryo at the mudghah stage. We can see here the somites at the back of the embryo that look like teeth marks. (The Developing Human, Moore and Persaud, 5th ed., p. 79.) B) Photograph of a piece of gum that has been chewed.

40 days in the womb

Professor Simpson is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. Upon studying the following two sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"In every one of you, all components of your body were collected together in your mother's womb by 40 days..."

and;

"If 42 nights have passed over the embryo, God sends an angel to it, who shapes it and creates its hearing, vision, skin, flesh, and bones..."

he noted that the first 40 days constitute a clearly distinguishable stage of embryo-genesis.

According to modern science, the end of the sixth week (42 nights) is the time where the foetal development of the limbs is at its height. This is the peak of the rapid development that occurs between the fourth and eighth week.

He was particularly impressed by the absolute precision and accuracy of Prophet Muhammad's sayings (peace be upon him)

the two seas that do not intermingle

Regarding the seas, God says: "He has let loose the two seas, converging together, with a barrier between them (which) they do not break through." Qur'an 55:19-20. The scientific fact that seas of different properties do not intermix has only very recently been discovered by oceanographers. A physical force called surface tension prevents the waters of neighbouring seas from mixing, due to the difference in the density of these waters. It is as if a thin wall were between them. (See Figure 5).

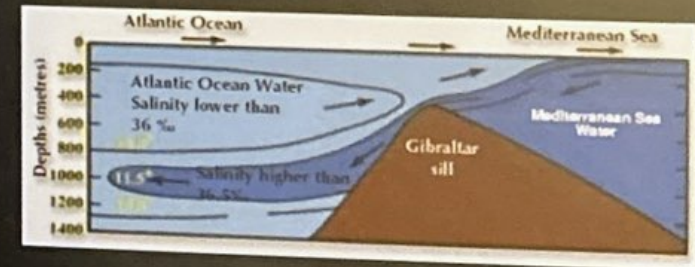


Figure 5

the creation of **living things** from **water**

"Allah created every (living) creature from water. Some of them go on their bellies, some of them on two legs, and some on four. Allah creates whatever He wills. Allah has power over all things."
Qur'an 24:45

Water is the main component of organic matter. Between 50%-90% of the weight of living things consists of water. Furthermore, 80% of the cytoplasm (basic cell material) is water. The analysis of cytoplasm took place hundreds of years after the revelation of the Qur'an.

mountains as **stabilisers**

Mountains play an important role in stabilising the crust of the earth by hindering its shaking. God has said in the Qur'an:

"And He has set firm mountains in the earth so that it would not shake with you..." Qur'an 16:15

Likewise, the modern theory of plate tectonics agrees that mountains work as stabilisers for the earth. The knowledge about the role of mountains as stabilisers has just begun to be understood by scientists in the framework of plate tectonics.

what do modern **scientists** say?

Dr Keith L. Moore, Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Cell Biology, was Associate Dean of Basic Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine as well as the Chairman of the Department of Anatomy. He is the author of the book entitled *The Developing Human*, which has been translated into eight languages and was chosen by a special committee in the United States as the best book authored by one person.

During one conference, Professor Moore stated:
"It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Qur'an about human development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad from God, because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until

many centuries later. This proves to me that Muhammad must have been a messenger of God."

Dr. T. V. N. Persaud, Professor of Anatomy, Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health, and Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Manitoba, Canada, was the Chairman of the Department of Anatomy for 16 years. He is the author or editor of 22 textbooks and has published over 181 scientific papers. He received the most distinguished award presented in the field of anatomy in Canada, the J.C.B. Grant Award, from the Canadian Association of Anatomists.

When he was asked about the scientific miracles in the Qur'an which he has researched, he stated the following:
"You have someone illiterate making profound pronouncements and statements that are amazingly accurate about scientific nature. And I personally can't see how this could be a mere chance. There are too many accuracies and, like Dr. Moore, I have no difficulty in my mind that this is a divine inspiration or revelation which led him to these statements."

in **conclusion**

This pamphlet has provided a mere glimpse of the many scientific facts mentioned in the Qur'an. Due to space limitations, topics such as what the Qur'an says about the water cycle, the oceans, astronomy, history, the human anatomy, flora and fauna, could not be included. These scientific facts were revealed over 1400 years ago, when technological equipment and knowledge were inadequate to make such discoveries. This proves that not only these facts but the remaining contents of the Qur'an were divinely revealed from the One True God who created the Universe and all that it contains. Be of those who read and discovers the beauty and truth of the Qur'an, so that you may discover the beauty and truth of this world and the world of the afterlife to come!

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Selected Sayings of
PROPHET **MUHAMMED**

Peace be upon him

*Guidance to
Establish Peace*

Compiled by Dr. Sabeel Ahmed

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PROPHET MUHAMMED*

The two primary sources of Islam are the Quran and the practices of Prophet Muhammad*. Below are selected sayings from Prophet Muhammad*. Each saying has the name of the narrator who heard the statement directly from the Prophet and also the name of the person who collected, verified and wrote it. For the sake of brevity, the name of the narrator is skipped, but the names of the collector/writer is included in brackets for reference. If the reader wishes to read more on the noble life of God's last Prophet, Muhammad* please contact info@GainPeace.com

ONENESS OF GOD

A man said to the Prophet Muhammad* "Direct me to a deed which may admit me to paradise." Prophet Muhammad* replied: "Worship God and never associate anything with Him in worship, establish prayer, pay obligatory charity, and strengthen the ties of kinship (relatives)." (Bukhari and Muslim)



THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

MUHAMMAD* - LAST PROPHET

'The chain of Messengers and Prophets has come to an end. There shall be no Messenger nor Prophet after me.' (Musnad Ahmad, Tirmidhi)

PARENTS

'Paradise lies under the feet of your mothers' (Ahmad, Nasai)

Note: By obeying, serving and taking care of mothers, is one way to obtain paradise. In Islam, every day is Mothers day and Fathers day!



HUMILITY

'Verily, God has revealed to me that you should adopt humility. So that no one may wrong another and no one may be disdainful and haughty towards another.' (Muslim)

INDECENCY

'A true believer does not taunt or curse or abuse or talk indecently.' (Tirmidhi)

GOOD CONDUCT

The best of people is one whose life is long and his conduct is good. (Tirmidhi)

WOMEN

'The believers who show the most perfect Faith are those who have the best behaviour, and the best of you are those who are the best to their wives.' (Tirmidhi)



MERCY

'Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind.' (Bukhari)

PATIENCE

'Never a believer is stricken with a discomfort, an illness, an anxiety, a grief or mental worry or even the pricking of a thorn but God will expiate his sins on account of his patience.' (Bukhari and Muslim)



PROTECTING NON-MUSLIMS

'If anyone harms non-Muslims (Jews, Christians and others) who have a covenant with Muslims, then I (Muhammad*) am his (oppressor's) opponent. If I am his opponent, I will oppose him on the day of Judgment. (As-Sunnah Al-Kubra)

DESIRING GOOD FOR OTHERS

'No one of you becomes a true believer until he likes for his brother what he likes for himself.' (Bukhari and Muslim)

JIHAD - BEST TYPE

'The best type of Jihad is speaking a true word in the presence of a tyrant ruler.' (Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi)

ORPHANS

'I will be like this in Paradise with the person who takes care of an orphan'. Prophet Muhammad* raised his forefinger and middle finger by way of illustration.' (Bukhari)



DEEDS

'Three (things) follow a dead person: Members of his family, his property and his deeds. Two of them return; and one remains with him. The people and his wealth return; his deeds remain with him'. (Bukhari and Muslim)

SICK – VISITING

'Visit the sick, feed the hungry, and (arrange for the) release of the captive.' (Bukhari)



WORKING IS BETTER THAN BEGGING

'It is far better for you to take your rope, go to the mountain, (cut some firewood) carry it on your back, and sell it and thereby save your face than begging from people whether they give you or refuse.' (Bukhari)

RESPECTING ELDERLY, MERCY TO THE YOUNG

(He is not one of us who shows no mercy to younger ones and does not acknowledge the honor due to our elders.)
(Tirmidhi and Abu Dawud)



PRIDE

'He who has, in his heart, an ant's weight of arrogance will not enter Paradise.' (Muslim)

FOUL LANGUAGE

'Abdullah bin `Amr bin Al-`as reported that Prophet Muhamad*did not indulge in loose talk nor did he like to listen to it. He used to say, "The best of you is the best among you in conduct.'
(Bukhari and Muslim)

ANGER

'The strong man is not the one who wrestles good, but the strong man is in fact the one who controls himself in a fit of rage.'

NEIGHBORS

'He is not a believer who eats his fill while his neighbors are hungry.'(Bayhaqi) (Bukhari and Muslim)

JUST RULER

'The people of Paradise will be of three kinds: A just successful ruler, a man who shows mercy to his relatives, and a pious believer who has a large family and refrains from begging.'

TERRORISM – MURDER

'(Of the) major sins are: to ascribe partners to God, disobey parents, murder someone, and to take a false oath (intentionally).' (Bukhari) (Muslim)

EDUCATION

'God makes the way to Paradise easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge.' (Muslim)

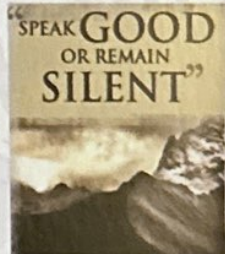


TRUTH & FALSEHOOD

'Truth leads to piety and piety leads to Paradise. A man persists in speaking the truth till he is recorded with God as a truthful man. Falsehood leads to transgression and transgression leads to the Hell-fire. A man continues to speak falsehood till he is recorded with God as a great liar.' (Bukhari and Muslim)

SPEAK GOOD OR REMAIN SILENT

'He who believes in God and the Last Day, let him show hospitality to his guest; let him maintain good relation with kins; let him speak good or remain silent.' (Bukhari and Muslim)



NO RACISM

O people! Your God is one and your forefather (Adam) is one. An Arab is not better than a non-Arab and a non-Arab is not better than an Arab, and a white person is not better than a black person and a black person is not better than a white person, except in piety. (Musnad Ahmad)

*Peace be upon him

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Prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him)

**You should
know this man!**



Gain Peace
...through Islam!

who is (peace be upon him) Muhammad?

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in a long chain of Prophets sent to call the people to the obedience and worship of God alone ('Allah' in Arabic). Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon and Jesus (peace be upon them all).

"Indeed in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example to follow for whoever hopes in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much."
Qur'an 33:21

Just as Moses (peace be upon him) was sent with the Torah (the original uncorrupted revelation sent to Moses) and Jesus (peace be upon him) with the Gospel (the original, uncorrupted revelation - not the present-day versions), Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Qur'an to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied.

The Prophet's (peace be upon him) wife, Aisha, was once asked to describe the Prophet (peace be upon him), and she replied that he was 'the Qur'an walking', meaning he meticulously implemented the noble teachings of the Qur'an into his daily life. We will demonstrate how he translated these noble teachings into noble actions.

mission of mercy

As well as calling people to pray, fast and give charity, the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught that one's faith in God should also affect one's treatment of others. He said, *"The best of you are they who have the best character."*

"And We (God) have not sent you (Muhammad) except as a mercy for mankind."
Qur'an 21:107

Many sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasise the relationship between belief and action, for example, *"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should not hurt his neighbour, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should speak what is good or keep quiet."*

The final Messenger (peace be upon him) taught humans to show mercy and to respect each other, *"He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy."*

In another narration, some people requested the Prophet (peace be upon him) to invoke God to punish the disbelievers but he replied, *"I have not been sent as one to curse but as a mercy."*

forgiveness

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most forgiving of all people and the kindest. If someone abused him, he would forgive him, and the harsher a person was, the more patient he would become. He was extremely lenient and forgiving, especially when he had the upper hand and the power to retaliate.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) embodied forgiveness and no amount of crime or aggression against him was too great to be forgiven by him. He was the best example of forgiveness and kindness, as mentioned in the following verse of the Qur'an, **"Keep to forgiveness (O Muhammad), and enjoin kindness, and turn away from the ignorant."** Qur'an 7:199

"Let them forgive and overlook: do you not wish that Allah should forgive you? For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."
Qur'an 24:22

equality

In the following sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him), he taught that all humans are equal in the sight of God,

"Indeed the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you."
Qur'an 49:13

"All humanity is from Adam and Adam is from clay. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a black over a white; except through piety."

"God does not judge you according to your appearance and your wealth, but He looks at your hearts and looks into your deeds."

It is related that once a companion of the Prophet (peace be upon him) called another companion in an offensive way, **"Son of a black woman!"** The Prophet (peace be upon him) became

angry and replied, *"Do you condemn him because of the blackness of his mother? You still have within you traces of ignorance from the pre-Islamic period."*

tolerance

"Good deeds and evil deeds are not equal. Repel evil with what is best, then he with whom you had enmity shall become as a loyal friend."
Qur'an 41:34

"You should not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you should deal with them with forgiveness and kindness." This is how the final Messenger of God (peace be upon him) reacted to personal attacks and abuse.

Islamic sources include a number of instances where the Prophet (peace be upon him) had the opportunity to take revenge upon those who wronged him, but refrained from doing so.

He taught man to exercise patience in the face of adversity: *"The strong is not the one who overcomes people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."*

Practising patience and tolerance does not mean that a Muslim should be a passivist and not defend himself in case of attack. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated that, *"Do not wish to meet the enemy, but when you meet (face) the enemy, be patient (i.e. stand firm when facing the enemy)."*

gentleness

A companion who served Muhammad (peace be upon him) for ten years said that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was always gentle in his dealings with him. *"When I did something, he never questioned my manner of doing it; and when I did not do something, he never questioned my failure to do it. He was the friendliest of all men."*

On one occasion, the wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) reacted angrily after being insulted by a person.

"By the grace of Allah, you are gentle towards the people; if you had been harsh and hard-hearted, they would have dispersed from around you."
Qur'an 3:159

gentleness... continued

The Prophet (peace be upon him) advised her, **"Be gentle and calm, O Aisha, as Allah likes gentleness in all affairs."**

He also said, **"Show gentleness! For if gentleness is found in something, it beautifies it, and when it is taken out from anything, it makes it deficient."**

humbleness

The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to prevent people from standing up for him out of respect. He used to sit wherever there was a place available in an assembly and never sought a prominent or elevated place. He never wore anything to distinguish himself from his companions or appear in higher rank than them. He used to mix with the poor and the needy; he used to sit with the elderly and support the widows. People who did not know him could not tell him apart from the rest of the crowd.

Addressing his companions, he said, **"Allah has revealed to me, that you must be humble. No one should boast over one another, and no one should oppress another."**

Such was his humbleness that he was fearful of being worshipped, a privilege only befitting God:

"Do not exceed bounds in praising me as the Christians do in praising Jesus, Son of Mary. I am only the Lord's servant; then call me the Servant of Allah and His Messenger."

the ideal husband

The Prophet's beloved wife, Aisha, said of her noble husband, **"He always helped with the housework and would at times mend his clothes, repair his shoes and sweep the floor. He would milk, protect and feed his animals and do household chores."**

Not only was he a devoted husband, he also encouraged his companions to follow his example, **"The most perfect of the believers in faith are the best of them in morals. And the best among them are those who are best to their wives."**

"And the servants of The Most Gracious (God) are those who walk on the earth in humbleness, and when the ignorant address them, they say: 'Peace.'"
Qur'an 25:63

"And live with them (your spouses) in kindness."
Qur'an 4:19

"Indeed you (O Muhammad) are on an exalted standard of character."
Qur'an 68:4

the ideal example

What has preceded is only a glimpse of how Muhammad (peace be upon him) lived his life. The examples of kindness and mercy mentioned may come as a surprise to some people given the portrayal of Islam in the media and its constant misrepresentation.

It is important when trying to understand Islam that one goes directly to its sources: The Qur'an, and authentic sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and that anyone does not judge Islam based on the errant actions of a few Muslims.

comments from non-muslims

Mahatma K Gandhi, a major political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, remarked: **"It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. This and not the sword carried everything before them and he overmounted every obstacle."**

George Bernard Shaw, the British playwright, declared: **"The world is in dire need of a man with the mind of Muhammad*; religious people in the Middle Ages, due to their ignorance and prejudice, had pictured him in a very dark way as they used to consider him the enemy of Christianity. But after looking into the story of this man I found it to be an amazing and a miraculous one, and I came to the conclusion that he was never an enemy of Christianity, and must be called instead the saviour of humanity. In my opinion, if he was to be given control over the world today, he would solve our problems and secure the peace and happiness which the world is longing for."**

Michael Hart, the author of The 100: A ranking of the most influential persons in history, says: **"My choice of Muhammad* to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history, who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels."**

* Peace be upon him

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the
facts



Gain Peace
...through Islam!

WHAT is Islam and who are Muslims?

Islam is a Arabic word which means peaceful, willing submission - submission to the code of conduct ordained by God.

The message of Islam is simple: To believe and worship One True God alone, and to accept Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as His final messenger.

It is the way of life ordained by God which was taught by each of His prophets and messenger. Islam refuses to accept any form of creation, whatsoever, as a deity worthy of worship. It emphasizes the exclusive worship of one God who created the entire universe and to whom all creation will eventually return.

The followers of Islam are called Muslims, who can be from any racial or ethnic background.

WHAT is the purpose of life?

God did not create humans to simply wander aimlessly. Rather, we have a higher purpose - to acknowledge and worship God alone, so that we live upon the guidance of our Creator. This guidance enables us to live a successful and blessed life in all aspects, as well as entry into Paradise and freedom from Hell. The test of one's faith is in using one's intellect and reasoning abilities to contemplate and recognise God's signs and to live according to His guidance.

God gave humans free will as a test to see who will willingly follow His path.

WHO is Allah?

Allah is the personal name of The One True God. Allah has no partners, equals, parents or children. All of Allah's attributes are perfect, such as The Creator, The Most Merciful, The All-Powerful, The Most Just, The All-Wise and The All-Knowing. No human or object shares in Allah's lordship and His divine attributes, as such, He alone deserves to be worshipped exclusively.

WHO is Muhammad?

Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in the long line of Prophets, sent to call all mankind to the worship of God alone. He was an ideal father, husband, teacher, leader and judge, and a perfect example of an honest, just, compassionate and brave human being. Although greatly respected, he, like the other Prophets, is not worshipped by Muslims.

WHAT are the sources of Islam?

The *Quran* is the primary source of Islamic knowledge and lays out the principles of Islamic teachings. The *Sunnah* is the secondary source, and is a collection of thousands of authenticated saying and actions by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as conveyed by his companions.

As they are rigorously authenticated, it provides an accurate way of life and guidance for Muslims to follow. All Islamic teachings are based on evidence derived from these two authentic sources.

WHAT is the Quran?

The Quran is the final revelation to mankind, and is a guide and criterion between right and wrong. It is the literal word of Allah, as revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the Angel Gabriel, and supersedes all previous revelations, such as the Gospel and the Torah. It explains and clarifies many issues like the purpose of our existence; the correct concept of God; the actions liked and disliked by God; the stories of the Prophets and their lessons; accounts of Heaven, Hell, and the Day of Judgement. One of the great miracles of the Quran is that it has been preserved and unchanged since it was revealed over 1400 years ago. It also contains many scientific and historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time and have only been discovered recently, which is one of the proofs that it is from God.

WHAT are the main practices in Islam?

1st Pillar: The Testimony of Faith – to declare that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah, and Muhammad is His final Messenger.

2nd Pillar: Prayers – to be performed five times a day; once each at dawn, early afternoon, late afternoon, after sunset and at night.

3rd Pillar: Prescribed Charity – this is an annual compulsory charity paid to those less fortunate and is calculated at 2.5% of one's total wealth. It is paid by those who have excess wealth beyond their basic needs.

4th Pillar: Fasting the Month of Ramadan – throughout this month, Muslims must refrain from all food, drink and sexual relations with their spouses, from dawn to sunset. They also endeavour to refrain from all bad deeds.

The main practices in Islam are referred to as the five pillars.

5th Pillar: The Pilgrimage – if a Muslim has the means to do so, they are required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, at least once in their lifetime. It involves prayer, supplication, charity and travelling, and is a very humbling and spiritual experience that unites the Muslim nation.

WHAT do Muslims believe about Jesus & other Prophets?

Thousands of Prophets were sent by Allah, at least one to every nation, with the same message: to worship Allah alone and not associate any partner with Him. Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Joseph, Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Jesus (peace be upon him) was one of the greatest Prophets sent by Almighty God. He was born miraculously without a father and performed many miracles – all by the permission and will of God.

WHY do bad things happen?

God tests people in different ways through various trials. This includes health, family, natural disasters, wealth or other means. Patience during adversities (by not giving up hope or despairing), and gratefulness for blessings (by using such blessings in a way pleasing to God), is a means of getting closer to God and attaining eternal Paradise. Of course, pain and suffering in this life is temporary, while Paradise is everlasting.

"He who created death and life to test you as to which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, Forgiving."
Qur'an 67:2

WHAT happens after death?

Death is the passage from this brief life into the next eternal life. Each person will be resurrected to be held to account on the Day of Judgement. This Day ensures that justice prevails, as anyone who was wronged or oppressed in this life, will be compensated and dealt justly by Allah, the All-Knowing and Most Just. If a person lives a good, honourable life by worshipping and obeying Allah, they will be entered into Paradise, through Allah's Mercy. If they choose to disbelieve, Hellfire awaits them.

If there was no afterlife in which the good were rewarded and the bad punished, that would contradict the perfect justice of God and life would not be fair.

WHAT is the worst sin in Islam?

Worshipping others beside God or associating partners or equals with God is the worst sin in Islam. This includes ascribing some of God's attributes to other objects or beings (e.g. idols); claiming that God has a son, mother or any other partner; or disbelieving in God.

HOW does Islam view women?

In Islam, men and women are viewed as equals before God, in terms of both receiving equal reward and accountability for their actions. Allah, the Creator of both genders, has assigned different roles and responsibilities for each, taking into account their differences. Women are given the utmost respect and honour, with no form of oppression condoned towards them.

Allah, the Creator of both genders, has assigned different roles & responsibilities for each, taking into account their differences.

DOES the concept of the original sin exist in Islam?

The concept of "original sin" does not exist in Islam. God is just; so no person is held accountable for any sin they themselves did not commit. When Adam and Eve sinned, they asked God for forgiveness and were forgiven. Their sin was not passed on their progeny.

WHAT is Jihad?

The essence of Jihad is to struggle and sacrifice for one's religion in a manner which is pleasing to God. Linguistically, it means to "struggle" and can refer to striving to do good deeds, giving charity, or joining an Islamic military action. The most commonly known form is the military Jihad which is permitted in order to preserve the well being of society, to prevent oppression from spreading, and to promote justice.

DOES Islam condone terrorism?

In war, the targeting of innocent non-combatants is a despicable act which Islam clearly prohibits. In fact, Muslims are not even allowed to destroy plants and animals unnecessarily, let alone innocent humans. This is just but one example of many ethical guidelines of war stipulated in Islam. However, it is important to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance to occupation, as the two are very different.

ARE all religions the same?

While most religions generally have the same teachings regarding good manners and kindness to others and so on, Islam additionally focuses on the Greatness of God with no compromises with his Oneness and Perfection. Unlike other religions, Islam primarily teaches that God is completely different and unique compared to His creation and that all praise and worship is due directly and exclusively to Him. Islam is also comprehensive, simple yet profound, has revelation that is preserved, does not reject any of God's Prophets but states that they all came with the one and same message.

WHAT is Halal food?

Halal, or lawful, foods are those permitted by God for Muslims to consume. Generally, most foods and beverages are considered halal, with the main exceptions being pig and alcohol. Meat and poultry must be slaughtered humanely and correctly, which involves mentioning God's name before slaughter and minimising the suffering of animals.

WHO can become a Muslim?

Becoming a Muslim means acknowledging the greatness of The Creator and developing and maintaining a close relationship with Him by obeying Him as per the teachings of the Qur'an and following the way of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Allah has opened the doors of Islam to all of mankind, regardless of their past or current situation.

Therefore, anyone can become a Muslim at any time by simply believing in, and uttering the following testimony of faith:

'I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger'.

By becoming a Muslim, one will live a life of purpose and fulfilment, while being guaranteed eternal Paradise in the Hereafter.

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women's rights
in **Islam**

respected

honoured

cherished



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Women in Islam are thought to be subjugated, degraded, oppressed - but are they really? Are millions of Muslims simply that oppressive or are these misconceptions fabricated by a biased media?

"And for women are rights over men, similar to those of men over women."

Qur'an 2:228

Over fourteen hundred years ago, Islam gave women rights that women in the West have only recently began to enjoy. In the 1930's, Annie Besant observed, "it is only in the last twenty years that Christian England has recognised the right of woman to property, while Islam has allowed this right from all times. It is a slander to say that Islam preaches that women have no souls." (The Life and Teachings of Mohammed, 1932)

Men and women all descended from a single person - the Prophet Adam (peace be upon him). Islam does not accept for either of them anything but justice and kind treatment.

Equal Reward & Equal Accountability

Men and women worship Allah in the same way, meaning they worship the same God (Allah), perform the same acts of worship, follow the same scripture, and hold the same beliefs. Allah (the Arabic word for the One true God of all creation), judges all human beings fairly and equitably. Allah emphasises the just treatment and reward due to both men and women in many verses of the Qur'an:

"Allah has promised to the believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in gardens of everlasting bliss."

Qur'an 9:72

"Never will I allow the loss of the work of any worker amongst you, male or female; you are of one another."

Qur'an 3:195

These verses show that reward is dependent upon one's actions and not one's gender. Gender does not play any part in how a person is rewarded and judged.

If we compare Islam to other religions, we see that it offers justice between the sexes. For example, Islam dismisses the idea that Eve is more to blame than Adam for eating from the forbidden tree. According to Islam, Adam and Eve both sinned, they both repented and God forgave them both.

Equal Right to Knowledge

Both men and women are equally encouraged to seek knowledge. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "**Education is compulsory for every Muslim.**"

Also, great female Muslim Scholars existed at and around the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Some were from his family and others were his companions or their daughters. Prominent amongst them was Aisha, the wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) through whom a quarter of the Islamic law has been transmitted.

Other females were great scholars of jurisprudence and had famous male scholars as their students.

Equal Right to Choose a Spouse

Islam has honoured women by giving them the right to choose a spouse and keep their original family name once married. Additionally, many have the impression that parents force their daughters into marriage. This is a cultural practice, and has no basis in Islam. In fact, it is prohibited.

At the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a woman came to him and said, "My father has married me to my cousin to raise his social standing and I was forced into it." The Prophet sent for the girl's father and then in his presence **gave the girl the option of remaining married or nullifying the marriage.** She responded, "O Messenger of Allah, I have accepted what my father did, but I wanted to show other women (that they could not be forced into a marriage)."

Equal yet Different

While men and women have equal rights as a general principle, the specific rights and responsibilities granted to them are not identical. Men and women have complementary rights and responsibilities.

Aside from external and internal anatomical differences, scientists know there are many other subtle differences in the way the brains of men and women process language, information and emotion, just to mention a few.

A socio-biology expert, Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University, said that females tend to be higher than males in verbal skills, empathy and social skills, among other things, while men tend to be higher in independence, dominance, spatial and mathematical skills, rank-related aggression, and other characteristics.

It would be foolish to treat both genders the same and to ignore their differences. Islam teaches that men and women have complementary, yet different, roles because it is best suited to their nature. God says:

"And the male is not like the female."

Qur'an 3:36

"Does not the One who created, know? And He is the Most Kind, the All Aware."

Qur'an 67:14

The Family Unit

God created men and women to be different, with unique roles, skills and responsibilities. These differences are not viewed as evidences of superiority or inferiority, but of specialisation. In Islam, the family is of central importance. The man is responsible for the financial well being of the family while the woman contributes to the family's physical, educational and emotional well being. This encourages cooperation rather than competition. By fulfilling their mutual responsibilities, strong families are created and hence strong societies.

Also, emotionally, neither men nor women live a happy life without one another. Allah describes this beautifully by saying:

"They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them."

Qur'an 2:187

Clothing provides comfort, warmth and security as well as making one look good – this is how the relationship between the husband and wife is defined in Islam.

Love & Mercy in Spousal Relations

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also encouraged men to treat their spouses in the best way, ***“The best of you are those who are best (in treatment) to their wives.”***

“And among His signs is that He created for you wives amongst yourselves that you may dwell in tranquillity with them; and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts). Surely in this are Signs for people who reflect.”

Qur’an 30:21

Aisha (the Prophet’s wife) was once asked how the Prophet’s conduct was in his home. She said, *“He was like one of you at home, yet he was most lenient and most generous ...*

He was ready to give a helping hand to his wives in the ordinary

work of the house, [he] sewed his own

clothes and mended his own shoes.” In general, he helped in whatever work his wives did.

Lofty Positions of Mothers & Daughters

A mother has the greatest influence on a child especially in the earlier years through her affection, care and love. Undoubtedly, the success of a society is due to mothers. Therefore, it is only right for Islam to honour and raise their status.

Allah says in the Qur’an:

“And we have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his Parents, His mother bears him with hardship and she brings him forth with hardship.”

Qur’an 46:15

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was once asked, *“O Messenger of Allah, who among people is most deserving of my good treatment?”* He said, ***“Your mother.”*** The man asked twice more, *“Then who?”* and was given the same response. Only until the fourth time did the Prophet respond, ***“Then your father.”***

Reward is not only given to the good and kind treatment towards mothers. In fact, Islam has designated a special reward for raising daughters that is not granted for raising sons.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, ***“Whoever Allah has given two daughters and is kind towards them, they will be a reason for him entering Paradise.”***

Conclusion

Before Islam, women were considered shameful, female children were buried alive, prostitution was rampant, dowry was only in the hands of the husband, inheritance was only for the strong, and oppression was widespread. Islam came and abolished these practices. Even now, in “developed countries”, women are not granted respect, dignity and honour. They are not given equal pay for equal work. Islam, however, regards women as precious and valuable, not to be disrespected or discriminated. The mistreatment of women in some Middle-Eastern countries or Muslim families is due to cultural factors that some Muslims wrongly follow, not because of Islam. Why would many women around the world willingly enter Islam if it is an oppressive religion?

We end with the words of our Lord and your Lord, the Creator and Sustainer of all men and women:

“Surely the men who submit and the women who submit, and the believing men and the believing women, and the obedient men and the obedient women, and the truthful men and the truthful women, and the patient men and the patient women, and the humble men and the humble women... Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward.”

Qur’an 33:35

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WHO ARE MUSLIM AMERICANS?

President Barak Obama has stated, "For more than two centuries, **Muslim Americans** of all backgrounds – Arab and Asian, African and Latino, black and white have helped build America as farmers and merchants factory workers, architects, teachers, and community leaders..."

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OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE U.S.

- The Muslim nation of Morocco was the first country in the world to recognize America's independence in 1777
- Several Muslims fought in the Revolutionary and Civil wars of the U.S.
- The structural engineer of the Sears Tower (Willis tower) and highrise buildings around the US, Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan was a Muslim from Bangladesh
- Over a hundred free clinics are run by Muslim physicians who number around 5% of the total physicians in the U.S.

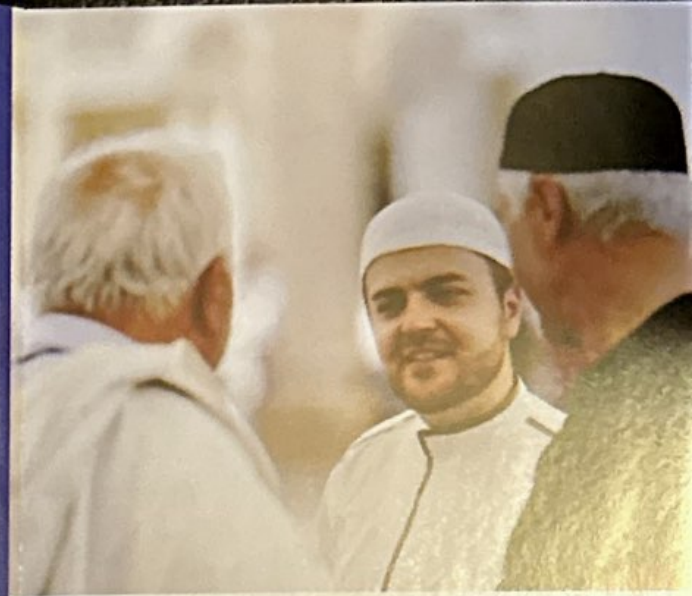
OUR DIVERSITY

Muslims are one of the most diverse faith-based religious communities in America:

- 23% of American Muslims are converts to Islam
- 38% are non-Hispanic white (including Arabs, Iranians, and Europeans)
- 28% are South-Asian
- 28% are black, 4% Hispanic, and 3% of mixed races.

WHERE DO WE LIVE IN THE US

Most of the 3.5 million plus Muslims live in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, and Detroit. Some of your neighbors or colleagues might be Muslims. You can contact Muslims by googling the Mosque closest to you or by calling: 1-800-662-ISLAM (4752).



OVERVIEW OF OUR FAITH

Muslim Americans are united by our faith in one God (known as Allah in Arabic).

We believe in the message of monotheism, as was preached by all of God's Prophets, namely, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

The Quran is the final testament revealed for humanity's guidance.

Through God's mercy, a person is rewarded with paradise if they worship one God and do good deeds.

OUR TWO HOLIDAYS

Eid ul-Fitr, a festival to break the fast, at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, commemorates Prophet Abraham's sacrifices, obedience, and patience.



WHAT DO MUSLIMS WANT YOU TO KNOW?

- We are one of the most peaceful and productive communities in the U.S.
- We condemn all violence done by anyone onto anybody
- The Quran equates taking one innocent life to that of all of humanity (Quran 5:32)
- We are Americans, living in the U.S. for approximately **500 years**
- **Don't judge** the peaceful faith of Islam through the misguided actions of some of its followers, just like **we don't want to judge** Christianity, Judaism, or Hinduism by the actions of some of their misguided followers

INTERESTING FACTS

Harvard University - Harvard Law School posted a verse of the Quran (chapter 4:135) at the entrance to the faculty library, describing it as one of the greatest expressions of justice in history.

O ye who believe!
Stand out firmly for justice, as witness
To Allah, even as against
Yourselves, or your parents,
Or your kin, and whether
It be [against] rich or poor:
For Allah can best judge both.



Thomas Jefferson's Quran - As a 22-year-old law student in Williamsburg, Virginia, Jefferson bought a Qur'an - 11 years before drafting the Declaration of Independence.

The U.S. Supreme Court - As the United States Supreme Court has friezes depicting the 18 greatest lawgivers of the world. One of them is Prophet Muhammad.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ISLAM

You can receive a free copy of the Quran in English or Spanish along with a book on the biography of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by contacting...

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Islamic Circle of North America

Written by Dr. Sabeel Ahmed

Local Contact:

The Qur'an

The Final Revelation
to Mankind



Gain Peace

...through Islam!

What is the Qur'an?

The Word of God

The Qur'an is the literal word of The Almighty God (Allah in Arabic), revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the Angel Gabriel.

"The revelation of The Book is from Allah, the Mighty, the Wise." Qur'an 39:1

Guidance for Mankind

The Qur'an is *"a guidance for mankind... and the distinction (between right and wrong)." Qur'an 2:185*

It provides direction on distinguishing between the truth and falsehood, without which, mankind would surely be in a loss.

The Final Revelation

The Qur'an is the last scripture revealed by Almighty Allah (God), confirming what little truth remains in parts of previous scriptures and refuting and correcting fabrications and additions which have crept into current day versions of such scriptures.

"O you who have been given the Scripture! Believe in what We have revealed confirming what is (already) with you..." Qur'an 4:47

How was the Qur'an Revealed?

The Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him) and exists only in the language in which it was revealed - Arabic. However, the translation of the meaning of the Qur'an is available in many languages.

The Qur'an was not sent down as a complete book in one revelation; rather, the revelation spanned over a period of 23 years.

For this reason, it is essential to know in what circumstances the verses were revealed, in order to have a proper understanding of the Qur'an; otherwise, its teachings could be misunderstood.

How do I know that it is from God?

Preservation

The Qur'an is the only religious sacred text that has been in circulation for a lengthy period, and yet remains as pure as the day it was revealed. Nothing has been added, removed or modified from it, since its revelation over 1400 years ago.

"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will certainly guard it (from corruption)."
Qur'an 15:09

Not only has the Qur'an been preserved in written form, but also in the hearts of men, children and women. Today, millions of people have memorised the Qur'an from cover to cover.

Scientific Miracles

The Qur'an does not contradict modern science but rather, supports it. One of the most remarkable aspects about the Qur'an is that it contains many verses which accurately describe natural phenomenon in various fields such as embryology, meteorology, astronomy, geology and oceanography. Scientists have found its descriptions incredibly accurate for a book dating back to the 7th century.

"We shall show them Our Signs in the Universe and within their own selves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth."
Qur'an 41:53

In fact, many of the scientific miracles mentioned in the Qur'an have been discovered only recently, through the modern advancement of technological equipment. Consider the following:

- The Qur'an gives a detailed description of the development of the human embryo. These details were unknown to the scientific community until recent times.
- The Qur'an states that the astronomical objects (stars, planets, moons etc...) were all formed from clouds of dust. Previously unknown, this fact has now become an undisputed principle of modern cosmology.
- Modern science has discovered the existence of barriers that allow two seas to meet yet maintain their own temperature, density and salinity.

These signs of God were clearly stated in the Qur'an more than 1400 years ago.

Uniqueness

Ever since its revelation, no person has been able to produce a single chapter like that of the Qur'an in its beauty, eloquence, splendour, wisdom, prophecies, and other perfect attributes.

"And if you are in doubt as to that which We have revealed to Our servant, then produce a chapter like it and call on your witnesses besides Allah if you are truthful."
Qur'an 2:23

The people that rejected Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) failed this challenge, even though they were extremely eloquent in language of the Qur'an. This challenge remains unanswered to this very day.

No Contradictions

When people write, they are bound to make mistakes such as spelling and grammar, contradictory statements, incorrect facts, omission of information, and other various errors.

"Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found in it (the Qur'an) many contradictions."
Qur'an 4:82

The Qur'an has no contradictions whatsoever - be it in scientific explanations of the water cycle, embryology, geology and cosmology; historical facts and events; or prophecies.

Couldn't Muhammad have authored it?

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known in history to be illiterate; he could not read nor write. He was not educated in any field that could account for neither the scientific and historical accuracy, nor the literary beauty of this magnificent Book. The precision of historical recounts of previous peoples and civilisations mentioned in the Qur'an is also too great to be authored by any man.

"And this Qur'an is not such as could ever be produced by other than Allah."
Qur'an 10: 37

Purpose of Revelation

To Believe in One True God

"And your god is One God. There is no god but He, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful." Qur'an 2:163

The most important topic mentioned throughout the Qur'an is the belief in the One, True God. God informs us that He has no partner, no son, no equal, and that none has the right to be worshipped except Him alone. Nothing is comparable to God and none of His creation resembles Him. The Qur'an also rejects the notion of attributing human qualities and limitations to God.

To Reject All False Gods

"And worship Allah and associate none with Him." Qur'an 4:36

Since Allah alone is the only One worthy of worship, false deities and false gods must be rejected. The Qur'an also rejects the notion of attributing divine qualities to anyone or anything other than Allah.

To Narrate the Stories from the Past

The Qur'an contains many narratives with beneficial lessons, including the true stories of previous Prophets such as, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jesus and Moses. Of these stories, Allah says, *"Indeed in their stories, there is a lesson for men of understanding." Qur'an 12:111*

To Remind us of the Day of Judgement

The Qur'an reminds us that everyone will taste death and will be held accountable for all their actions and sayings: *"We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least..." Qur'an 21:47*

To Fulfill the Intended Way of Life

Importantly, the Qur'an teaches that the purpose of life is to worship God alone, and live one's life according to the way of life prescribed by Him. In Islam, worship is a comprehensive term that includes all actions and sayings (whether private or public) that Allah loves and is pleased with. Therefore, by doing what Allah commands, a Muslim is worshipping God and fulfilling his purpose in life. The following are examples of worship from the Qur'an:

To pray: *"O you who believe! Bow down and prostrate yourselves and worship your Lord, that you may succeed." Qur'an 22:77*

To give charity: *"...And spend, it is better for your souls; and whoever is saved from the greediness of his soul, these it is that are the successful." Qur'an 64:16*

To be honest: *"Cover not Truth with falsehood, nor conceal the Truth when you know (what it is)." Qur'an 2:42*

To be modest: *"Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty [...] And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty." Qur'an 24:30-31*

To be thankful: *"And Allah has brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers— you did not know anything— and He gave you hearing and sight and hearts that you may give thanks." Qur'an 16:78*

To be just: *"O you who believe! Stand firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor..." Qur'an 4:135*

To be patient: *"And be patient, for indeed, Allah does not allow to be lost the reward of those who do good." Qur'an 11:115*

To do good: *"Allah has promised to those who believe and do good deeds (that) they shall have forgiveness and a mighty reward." Qur'an 5:9*

Conclusion

In summary, the Qur'an teaches mankind how to worship the One True God, hence fulfilling their true purpose in life, and attaining success in both this world and the next.

"Verily, We have sent down to you (O Muhammad) the Book for mankind in truth. So whosoever accepts the guidance, it is only for his own self; and whosoever goes astray, he goes astray only for his own loss." Qur'an 39:41

Don't you owe it to yourself to at least read this Noble Book?

Got Questions?

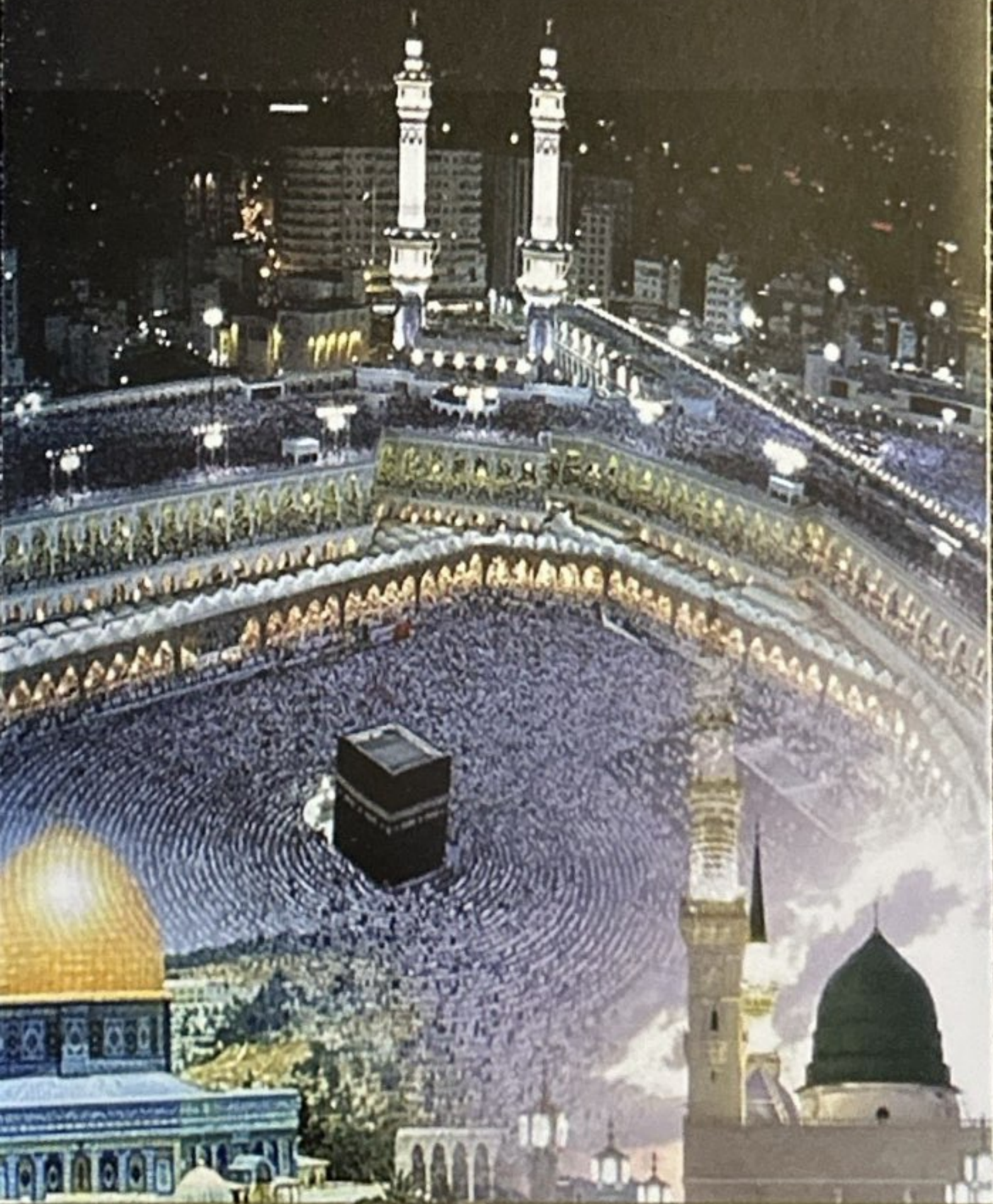
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PROPHET ABRAHAM FRIEND OF GOD



By Dr. Sabeel Ahmed



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HE IS RESPECTED BY ALL

When the name Abraham is mentioned, it is done with great honor, love and admiration by the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He is the common thread that binds the three faiths. Believers in Prophet Abraham celebrate and commemorate his life of dedication to God, his test and trials and foremost his living and preaching of monotheism, the absolute oneness of God. The knowledge about Prophet Abraham is coming from the Quran, revealed to Prophet Muhammad*. Quran mentions the name Abraham 69 times, the second most of any Prophet (Moses is first with 136 times).

HIS BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Abraham's name, as mentioned in the Arabic Quran, is Ibrahim. Abraham was born around the year 2000 BC (2000 years before Jesus Christ) in the city of UR, about 200 miles south from the current day Baghdad (Iraq). His father was an idol worshiper to whom Abraham preached to no avail. His people rejected him, punished him and he was forced to leave his town. Abraham did not get discouraged, he left his family and people and migrated to the region of Egypt and Palestine. God tested Abraham by telling him to leave his wife (Hagar) and son (Ishmael) in a remote and barren region of Bakkah (current Makkah in Arabia). God again tested Abraham's obedience by commanding him to sacrifice his son. Both the father and son later build the Kaaba, (in Makkah) the first house for the worship of one God. Through the progeny of Abraham came Prophets and Messengers, one of them being the last Prophet for humanity, Muhammad*.

HE IS THE FRIEND OF GOD

God appoints and honors every Prophet. However, a few of them were given an honor via special titles to elevate their status. God gave Abraham the lofty title of Friend of Allah (Khalil Ullah).

An honored title doesn't make these Prophets divine and more than human beings. They are still the creation of God and are to worship and submit to the creator like other humans.

And who is better in religion than one who submits himself to Allah while being a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, inclining toward truth? And Allah took Abraham as a friend. (Quran 4.125).

HE IS GOD'S PROPHET

God, through His guiding and loving nature, appoints humans to be His Prophets. Abraham was one such Prophet in the chain of Prophethood. Adam, the first human, was appointed as the first Prophet by God. Subsequent ones include Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Issac, David, Jesus and the last Prophet, Muhammad, peace be upon them. The role of these Prophets is to remind their people that humanity was created by God with the purpose to worship Him alone and to follow His commandments. And that in the hereafter, each one of us will be standing in front of God for our grand accountability on how we lived our lives. Paradise awaits those who lead a life with the correct belief in one God and do good deeds. Consequences and hellfire to those individuals who reject worshiping God, or associate partners with Him in the form of humans, idols or creation.

HIS MESSAGE-ISLAM

The main call of Abraham to his people was to invite them to submit themselves to the worship of one God and not to worship idols, humans or creation. The concept of absolute submission and worship of one true God, in Arabic, is known as ISLAM. Thus, Islam was the message of Abraham to his people. ISLAM was the same message of all of God's Prophets.

HE WAS A MUSLIM

What was Abraham's faith? He could not have been a Jew because Judaism came after Abraham and Moses. He could not have been a Christian because Christianity came about 2000 years after Abraham. But Abraham was a human, a spiritual being who worshiped the one true God and preached monotheism. Thus, by definition, he was a Muslim. A Muslim is an individual who willingly submits to God's will, worships the one creator and performs the actions that are authenticated, commanded and approved by God.

HE PREACHED ISLAM TO HIS FATHER

Abraham preached Islam to his father, an idol worshiper.

"When he (Abraham) said to his father: "O my father! Why do you worship that (idols) which hears not, sees not and cannot avail you in anything? "O my father! Verily! There has come to me of knowledge that which came not unto you. So follow me. I will guide you to a Straight Path. "O my father! Worship not Satan. Verily! Satan has been a rebel against the Most Gracious (GOD – Allâh in Arabic)" (Quran - 19:42-44)

HE EXPLAINED GOD TO HIS PEOPLE

The people of UR were polytheist, worshipping multiple idols as gods. Abraham was appointed by God to introduce monotheism to his people:

"Who has created me, and it is He Who guides me; And it is He Who feeds me and gives me to drink. And when I am ill, it is He who cures me; "And Who will cause me to die, and then will bring me to life (again); "And Who, I hope will forgive me my faults on the Day of Recompense, (the Day of Resurrection)," (Quran - 26:78-82)



HIS WIFE HAGAR - BORE ISHMAEL

Abraham and his wife Sarah were unable to have any child for decades. In fact Abraham was in his eighties, and Sarah was barren. Sarah gave Hagar as a wife to Abraham, and she gave birth to Ishmael. **'And Sarai (Sarah), Abram's (Abraham) wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife'. (Bible, Genesis 16.3)**

Thus, Hagar was Abraham's wife, and Ishmael was a legitimate son. Ishmael is a direct ancestor of Prophet Muhammad*.

SACRIFICIAL SON-ISHMAEL OR ISSAC?

Who was the son that God asked Abraham to sacrifice, Ishmael or Issac? This question or the answer to this question had led to many theological debates and friction between the Muslims and the Jews (also Christians). However, for a Muslim it is a mute question. For a Muslim, it is not important who was to be sacrificed, but more important is what lessons are learned. Muslim consider both Ishmael and Issac as their Prophets and as equals, thus the name of the son shouldn't lead to any friction, but to contemplate on the lessons from the lives of these noble Prophets.

HE BUILT THE FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Abraham and his son, Ishmael, were commanded by God to build the first house of worship, the Kaaba, in the city of Makkah (currently Saudi Arabia). When Muslims offer their five daily prayers, they turn in the direction of the Kaaba. A compass is used to provide this direction or the many apps on a smartphone provide the direction for the Muslims. Kaaba is the place where Muslims are obligated to go, at least once in a lifetime, to perform the pilgrimage and pay homage to the Kaaba. Pilgrimage is the fifth pillar of Islam.

Verily, the first House (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and guidance for the worlds (Quran 3:96).

Bakkah, another name for Makkah is also mentioned ("valley of Baca") in the Bible Psalm 84:5-7.

HIS MIRACLES

Abraham's people rejected the message of monotheism and decided to punish Abraham by making a huge fire and throwing Abraham into it. God, through His miracle, saved Abraham by making the fire cool. Another miracle was when Abraham took his son for sacrifice; God substituted his son with a ram. God tested Abraham by telling him to leave his wife (Hagar) and son (Ishmael) in a remote and barren region of Bakkah (current Makkah in Arabia). The baby was crying with hunger and thirst and Hagar was frantically running back and forth to look for water. An angel was commanded by God to strike its feather on the ground and out came gushing water from it. This well of water is still flowing, quenching the thirst of millions. Thus, God performed miracles through Abraham and other Prophets. Prophets are just the means through which God does the miracles and Muslims don't elevate a Prophet or any human who performs miracles. The source of any miracle is God and it is God we praise, glorify and worship.

HIS SACRIFICE COMMEMORATED AS A HOLIDAY

Muslims celebrate two holidays. One is the day (Eid-ul-Fitr) after the month of fasting (Ramadan). The second one is Eid-ul-Adha – celebrated to commemorate the sacrifice, obedience and patience of Abraham (and Hajar and Ishmael).

LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM'S LIFE

Abraham is a prime example of holding on to the concept of monotheism, despite challenges from his family and people, utmost obedience, despite difficult test and trials and patience in the face of adversity. Abraham was neither a Trinitarian nor a polytheist, but a Unitarian monotheist, worshipping the one true God. God provided Abraham success for his faith, worship, sacrifice, obedience, and patience. Thus, by believing and obeying God, as Abraham did, humanity can find success in this life and everlasting paradise in the hereafter.

* PEACE BE UPON HIM*

JESUS

A PROPHET OF GOD

MUSLIMS



JESUS

learn
the
basics



Gain Peace

...through Islam!

JESUS

A PROPHET OF GOD

Jesus is a figure who is loved and revered by billions of people the world over, yet there is much confusion surrounding the status of this colossal personality. Muslims and Christians both hold Jesus in high regard but view him in very different ways.

This pamphlet aims to clarify the issues surrounding Jesus:
Was Jesus God, or was he sent by God?
Who was the real historical Jesus?

"JESUS AS GOD"

Some Christians claim that "Jesus is God" or part of a trinity - that he is the incarnation of God on earth, and that God took on a human form. However, according to the Bible, Jesus was born, ate, slept, prayed and had limited knowledge - all attributes not befitting God. God has attributes of perfection whereas Man is the opposite. How can anything be two complete opposites simultaneously.

Islam teaches that God is *always* perfect. To believe that God became a man is to claim that God is or was (at some point in time), imperfect. A Christian must ask him/herself, does the idea of a god who was once a weak helpless child, one who could not survive without food, drink or sleep, be the same Almighty God described in the Old Testament? Surely not.

One may ask, "If God can do anything, why can't he become a man?" By definition, God does not do ungodly acts. God does not do anything that would make Him, something other than God. If God became man and took on human attributes, he would, necessarily, no longer be God.

Some ambiguous verses of the Bible can be applied erroneously to show that Jesus is in some way divine. But if we look at the clear direct verses of the Bible, we see again and again that Jesus is being referred to as an extraordinary human being and nothing more. The Bible contains many verses in which Jesus speaks and behaves as if God is a separate being to himself. For example:

- Jesus **"fell on his face and prayed."** (Matthew 26:39) If Jesus was God, then would a God fall on his face and pray? And who would he be praying to?

- The Bible calls Jesus a Prophet (Matthew 21:10-11), so how could Jesus be God and be God's Prophet at the same time?

- Jesus said, **"I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me."** (John 14:28)

- Jesus said, **"I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God."** (John 20:17) If Jesus was God, then why would he say, **"to my God, and your God,"** and who was he ascending to?

If Jesus was God, he would have clearly told people to worship him, and there would be clear verses in the Bible stating this; yet he did the opposite and disapproved anyone worshipping him: **"And in vain they worship me."** (Matthew 15:9)

"SON OF GOD"

Some Christians claim that Jesus is the Son of God. What does this actually mean? Surely God is far removed from having a physical and literal son. Humans have human children. Cats have kittens. What does it mean for God to have a child?

Rather than being taken literally, we find the term **"Son of God"** is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a **"righteous person"**, and has been used for David, Solomon and Israel - not exclusively for Jesus: **"...Israel is my firstborn son,"** (Exodus 4:22). In fact, anyone who is righteous is referred to as God's 'son': **"All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters."** (Romans 8:14)

It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. He is Perfect and Flawless! When He determines a matter, He only says to it, 'Be' and it is."

Quran 19:35

"FATHER & LORD"

In the same way, when the word 'Father' is used to refer to God it shouldn't be taken literally. Instead, it's a way of saying God is the creator, sustainer and supreme master of all. There are many verses for us to understand this symbolic meaning of the word 'Father', for example: **"One God and Father of all."** (Ephesians 4:6)

Also, Jesus was sometimes called 'Lord' by the disciples. This term is used in the original languages of the Bible, for God as well as

for people who are held in high esteem. For example, in the Greek New Testament, the term *kyrios* is used for both 'Lord' as well as to name the owner of the vineyard (Matthew 20:8), and the master who beat the disobedient servant (Luke 20:42-47).

In other parts of the Bible, Jesus is even called a 'servant' of God by the disciples: **"The God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus."** (Acts 3:13) This clearly shows that when 'Lord' is used to refer to Jesus, it is a title of respect, not of divinity.

JESUS: THE PROPHET

In Judaism, Jesus (peace be upon him) is denied as the Messiah. This is in stark contrast to Christianity where he is worshipped as a deity, or the son of God. Islam takes the middle ground and acknowledges Jesus as an honourable Prophet and Messenger of God, as well as the Messiah, but Muslims do not worship him - as worship is for God alone who created Jesus and everything that exists.

"(Jesus) said, 'Indeed, I am the slave of Allah (God). He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet..'"

Quran 19:30

MIRACULOUS BIRTH

According to the Quran, the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary, the noble virgin, in the form of a man, informing her of a child who was to be born miraculously without a father.

"He ([Angel Gabriel) said, 'I am only a messenger of your Lord to announce to you the gift of a righteous son.' She said, 'How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?' He said, 'Thus (it will be). Your Lord says, "It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter already decreed."

Quran 19:19-21

Some claim that his miraculous birth is evidence of Jesus' divinity. However, Jesus was not the first to come into existence without a father, as Prophet Adam (peace be upon him) before him had neither a father nor mother. God says:

"The likeness of Jesus before God is as that of Adam; He created him (Adam) from dust, then said to him: 'Be,' and he was. This is the truth from your Lord, so be not of the disputers."

Quran 3:59-60

If Jesus is worshipped due to having no father, then surely Adam is more deserving of worship since he was created without either parent.

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Jesus was miraculously conceived with no father and also performed great miracles by the will and permission of God. He spoke as a baby in the cradle to defend his mother against the people who accused her of fornication. The Quran also states that Jesus gave life to the dead, cured the leper and the blind - all by the will of God.

The fact that Jesus (peace be upon him) performed miracles does not mean that he was anything more than a humble servant of God. In fact, many Messengers performed miracles, including Noah, Moses and Muhammad (may peace be upon them all) and these miracles only took place by the permission of God, so as to demonstrate the authenticity of the Messenger.

MESSAGE OF JESUS

The Prophets of the Old Testament such as Abraham, Noah and Jonah never preached that God is part of a Trinity, and did not believe in Jesus as their saviour. Their message was simple: there is one God and He alone deserves your worship. It is not logical for God to send Prophets for thousands of years with the same essential message, only to suddenly change it, claim that He is now a part of a trinity, and to stipulate the belief in the divinity of Jesus to be saved.

The truth is, Jesus preached the same message as all the Prophets in the Old Testament. There is a passage in the Bible that really emphasises this core message. A man came to Jesus and asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered, "**The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'**" (Mark 12:28-29) So, the greatest commandment, the most important belief according to Jesus, is that God is one. If Jesus was God he would have said, 'I am God, worship me.'

Instead, he merely repeated a verse from the Old Testament confirming that God is One.

"And when Jesus brought clear proofs, he said, '... Indeed, God - He is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him alone. This is the only Straight Path.' "

Quran 43:64

This aligns with the mission of Jesus, as taught in Islam, where Jesus was sent to the Children of Israel to confirm the message of the past Prophets - to believe in the One True God.

As an honourable obedient Messenger of God, Jesus submitted willingly to God's commands. As such, he was a "Muslim" - which refers to anyone that submits to the will and commandments of God.

JESUS IN ISLAM

Jesus was as an honourable Prophet sent by God to call to the worship of God alone. This is evident in the Bible and confirmed by the Quran. The Islamic belief about Jesus explains who the real Jesus was, whilst maintaining the pure belief about God and His complete Greatness, Uniqueness and Perfection.

We invite you to look further and investigate Islam. It is not just another religion. It is the same message preached by Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad - may peace be upon all of them. Islam means 'submission to God' and is a natural and complete way of life that encourages one to give due attention to their relationship with God and His creation. Islam teaches that God is the All-Just and All-Merciful and does not need to sacrifice himself to forgive sins nor is anyone "born into sin". God judges everyone based on their own deeds and everyone is accountable for their own actions.

Islam teaches us to love and respect all the Prophets of God, but loving and respecting them does not mean worshipping them because worship is due only to God. Acknowledging Jesus as a Prophet of God and becoming a Muslim does not mean changing or losing your Christian identity. It is about going back to the original and pure teachings of Jesus.

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Selected Verses from **THE QURAN**

*This is the Book about which
there is no doubt...* Quran 2:2



Compiled by Dr. Sabeel Ahmed



Gain Peace
...through Islam!

Quran is the revelation given by God to Prophet Muhammad*. It contains knowledge about who the creator is, guidance on how to live our lives and solutions and salvation for humanity. The Quran is in the Arabic language and below are some selected verses translated into English.

ONE GOD

Say: He is Allah, the One and Only! God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begets not nor is He begotten. And there is none like unto Him. (Chapter 112)

Note: The name of the Creator, the one true God, in Arabic language is Allah.

ISLAM – RELIGION OF ALL THE PROPHETS

The same religion has He (God) established for you (Muhammad) as that which He enjoined on Noah - that which We have sent by inspiration to you (Muhammad) - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein... (42:13)

BIGGEST SIN - ASSOCIATING PARTNERS WITH GOD

Indeed, God does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills. And he who associates others with God has certainly gone far astray. (4:116)

Note: Associating partners with God includes taking someone (humans, idols, any creation) as a god along with or instead of God.

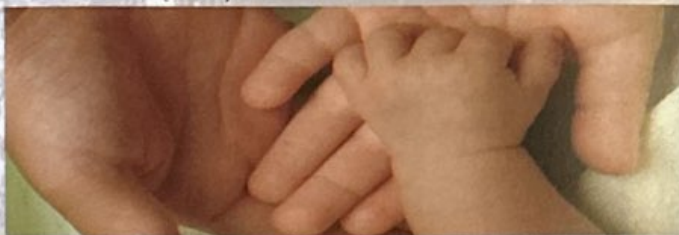
PROPHET MUHAMMAD* UNIVERSAL & LAST MESSENGER

Say: O people! Surely I (Muhammad) am the Messenger of God to you all, of Him Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth there is no god but He... (7:158)



SANCTITY OF LIFE

"...if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) 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". (5:32)



MAKING PEACE AMONG PEOPLE

"There is no good in much of their secret conferences save (in) him who enjoins charity and kindness and peace-making among the people. Whosoever does that, seeking the good pleasure of God, We (God) shall bestow on him a vast reward."(4:114)

EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN

Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women...for them God has prepared forgiveness and a great reward. (33:35)



NEIGHBOR'S RIGHTS

"Worship God and join none with Him; and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the poor, the neighbor who is near of kin, the neighbor who is a stranger, the companion by your side, the traveller (you meet)...." (4:36)

HONORING PARENTS

"And your God has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. (17:23)

PRIDE & ARROGANCE

"And turn not your face away from men with pride, nor walk in insolence through the earth. Verily, God likes not any arrogant boaster." (31:18)



CONTROLLING ANGER & FORGIVENESS

"The Paradise is prepared for those... who repress anger, and who pardon men." (3:134)

HUMILITY & GENTLENESS

"And the (faithful) slaves of the Most Gracious (God) are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the foolish address them (with bad words) they reply back with 'PEACE.'" (25:63)

JUSTICE

O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for God, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, God is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed God is ever, with what you do, acquainted.



REMOVING OPPRESSION

"And what is wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of God, and for those weak, ill-treated and oppressed among men, women, and children, whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You, one who will protect, and raise for us from You one who will help." (4:75)

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in evil (false deities, evil, transgression) and believes in God, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And God is All-Hearer, All-Knower. (2:256)

SUICIDE - FORBIDDEN

O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, God is Most Merciful to you. (4:29)

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

O Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer: eat and drink: But waste not by excess, for God loveth not the wasters. (7:31)

INTOXICANTS AND GAMBLING - FORBIDDEN

O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling and (sacrificing to) stones set up and (dividing by) arrows are only an uncleanness, the Satan's work; shun it therefore that you may be successful. (5:90)



MARY - MOTHER OF JESUS - HONORED IN ISLAM

Behold! The angels said: "O Mary! God has chosen you and purified you - chosen you above the women of all nations. (3:42)

JESUS - A MESSENGER OF GOD

Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They both had to eat their (daily) food. See how God does make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth! (5:75)

HEREAFTER - PERMANENT ABODE

"And this life of the world is only amusement and play! Verily, the home of the Hereafter is the real life if they but knew". (29:64).

UNITY IN DIVERSITY OF MANKIND

"O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you with God is that (believer) who is pious." (49:13)



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