

## Muhammad (570 CE - 632 CE)

- Born in Mecca, brought up by his uncle. He became a merchant.
- During prayer on Mount Hira, Muhammad was visited by Angel Gabriel (Jibril) who recited the words of Allah to him.
- When Muhammad first started preaching - many people did not like. He moved to Madinah to form the first Muslim community.
- Muhammad after years of uniting tribes conquered Mecca.
- Final prophet sent by Allah. • Perfect Muslim example.
- Muhammad gave the Qur'an to humans.

**Risalah** - means 'message': the way Allah communicates his message to people.



**Prophethood** - the channel of communication between Allah and humanity.

# ISLAM BELIEFS



## Adam

- First human on Earth - first prophet.
- Created from the dust of the ground.
- Father of the human race.
- God gave Adam understanding & the name of all things.
- God created Hawwa (Eve) to keep Adam company.

## Ibrahim

- Sold small statues (idol Gods).
- To test their power - threw them into the river - realised they had no power.
- Ibrahim searched for the truth, then preached about God in public.
- Ibrahim captured & put into a fire - an Angel spoke to him & Allah commanded the fire to cool.
- Ibrahim was willing to sacrifice his only son for Allah - a ram sacrificed instead (festival of Id-ul-Adha remembers this).

## Holy Scripture

- Ayah** - verse of the Qur'an.
- Gospel** - good news of Isa (Jesus), one of the prophets.
- Psalms** - holy book revealed by God to David.
- Surah** - chapter of the Qur'an (114 in total).
- Torah** - five books revealed to Moses, one of the prophets.
- Scrolls of Abraham** - holy book revealed to Abraham.

## The Qur'an

- The most important holy book - the direct word of Allah.
- Revealed over 23 years to Muhammad.
- Contains all truths, rules/laws, knowledge needed as a Muslim.
- Written in Arabic.



- Words memorised by Muhammad - passed/recited to others then written down.
- Treated with respect - wudu (washing) performed before touching the Qur'an & wrapped in cloth & kept on the top shelf.

## Hadith

- Collections of writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad and contain his sayings and teachings.



## Sunnah

- Found in the Hadith.
- Practices and examples of the Prophet Muhammad - Muslims see these as examples of how to behave.

## Beliefs about Allah

### Tawhid - Oneness of God

"He is God the One" (Surah 112).

**The Sin of Shirk** - any practice of worshipping anything other than God.

- not forgivable if someone does not seek forgiveness
- NO visual/image representations of Allah.
- NO images of prophets.

### Sunni and Shi'a Islam

- Muhammad - recieved the Qur'an from Angel Gabriel.
- told people of Mecca to stop worshipping idols.
- moved to Medinah to start the first Muslim community.
- After Muhammad died Muslims disagreed over who should succeed him.
- Abu Bakr - a caliph - next leader.
- Follow the teachings of the Qur'an & Sunnah.

### Sunni Islam

- 1. Belief in One God (Tawhid).
- 2. Angels
- 3. Prophets
- 4. The Qur'an
- 5. Afterlife & Judgement
- 6. Supremacy of God's Will.

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### Shi'a Islam

- Believe Ali Muhammad's cousin was named as successor.
- Each Imam had to be a relative of Muhammad & chosen by God.

### 5 Roots of 'Usul

1. Belief in One God (Tawhid).
2. Justice of Allah
3. Prophets.
4. Belief in the Imamate.
5. Belief in judgement.

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### The Shahadah



"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."

Shi'a Muslims add "and Ali is the friend of God."


- Shahadah - said twice when converting to Islam.
- Announced as part of the call to prayer.

### The Supremacy of God's Will

"Nothing takes place unless God allows it to happen."

- Whether something good or bad happens Muslims believe its God's will.
- Muslims try to both accept God's will, and to live according to God's will.

## ISLAM BELIEFS



### The Nature of God

In Islam, Allah has 99 Names, which come from the Qur'an and Hadith.

• **Just (adalat)** - makes sure people receive justice for their actions.

- **Omnipotent** - means God (Allah) can do anything.
- **Beneficent** - doing good, being generous and kind.
- **Merciful** - forgiving when people do wrong.
- **Transcendent** - Allah is beyond human understanding. Allah is unknowable.
- **Immanence** - Allah is close to humanity and involved in the world.



• **Monotheism** - belief in one God.

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• **Fairness** - part of Allah's nature - treats humans equally and as they deserve.



• **Mosque** - the Muslim place of worship.



## Angels

### Nature of Angels

- Heavenly beings created by Allah - made of light.
- Lots of different angels with different roles.
- Tell Allah the behaviour of humans.
- Do not have physical needs e.g. water, food, sleep.
- Completely pure and have no free will.
- Invisible but will show themselves on special occasions.

### Role of Angels

#### Jibril (Gabriel)

- Delivered Allah's messages.
- Revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.
- A bridge between Allah and humans.

#### Mika'il (Michael)

- Giver of rain which waters the land & helps food grow.
- Guard places of worship & reward good deeds.

**Israfeel (Raphael)** - blow the trumpet on judgement day.

**Malak al Mawt** - angel of death takes the soul from the body.

**Munkar & Naakeer** - test people & their faith in their graves.



### Predestination

**Predestination** - the idea that everything that happens is known by Allah.

- Supremacy of Allah's will -

Muslims have to accept bad things as well as good.

## ISLAM BELIEFS



### Day of Judgement

- Allah will resurrect all people who have died & everyone will be judged on their actions.
- Only Allah knows when this day will be.
- Muslim's enter a state of waiting 'barzakh' after death.

### Sunni Islam

- Allah has everything written in a 'book of decrees'.
- Allah created all things and the actions of his creatures.
- God has a set plan for everyone - God's perfect knowledge.

### Shi'a Islam

- God's knows everything that is going to happen, but does not mean he decides what is going to happen.
- God can see people's choices as he is not restricted by time.

### Life After Death

#### Paradise (Jannah)

- Live in a state of joy.
- Descriptions include - white, jewels, precious stones, food, flowing rivers & milk & honey.
- People will be united with members of their family.

#### Hell (Jahannam)

- Place of physical & mental suffering.
- Place of burning fire & boiling water.
- Some parts of the Qur'an talk of seven levels of hell - depending on the seriousness of sins.



### Impact of these beliefs

- All humans will be judged on how they live their life.
- Allah will balance the good deeds against bad deeds & decide whether they go to paradise or hell.
- Everyone will be accountable for their actions so justice will be given.