

## 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.

## 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).

# ISLAM BELIEFS

## 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

- 6 Articles of Faith**
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



The Supremacy of God's Will

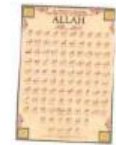
- "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."
- Shi'a Muslims add "and Ali is the friend of God."
- Nothing takes place unless God allows it to happen.
  - Whether something good or bad happens Muslims believe its God's will.
  - Muslims try to both accept God's will, and to live according to God's will.
- Shahadah - said twice when converting to Islam.
- Announced as part of the call to prayer.

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.
- **Fairness** - part of Allah's nature - treats humans equally and as they deserve.
- **Masque** - the Muslim place of worship.



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## 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.

## ORIGINS!

It is a festival for ALL Muslims - the Day of Atonement.



Only a major festival for Shi'a  
Remembers the death of Hussein at Karbala.

## ORIGINS:

Muhammad declared this as one of the 2 celebration days. It is the festival of breaking the fast. Celebrated at the end of Ramadan.

## Why is it important?

- It has many names including the sugar feast, the sweet festival or lesser Eid.
- Celebrating finishing a whole month of Ramadan.
- Thanking God for the strength and help he has given them to fast a whole month.
- Muslims are also thanking God for the Quran, which was revealed at this time.

## How is it celebrated?

Gifts exchanged  
Big family meal  
Special clothes  
Processions in the street  
Sermons  
Prayers in the mosque  
Homes are decorated

# Id-ul-Fitr

# ASHURA

## Meaning and importance:

- A day of mourning + sorrow. Hussein was Muhammad's grandson.
- Fought against a much larger army. 70 men killed. Women + children tortured.
- Was a very tragic event + is still remembered by Shi'a Muslims with sorrow and grief.

## How is it celebrated?

Some men beat themselves to try and connect with Hussein's suffering.  
Some Shi'a Muslims go on pilgrimage to the Shrine in Karbala.  
Funeral like processions.



Re-enactments and plays to retell the story.  
Celebrated at the end of Hajj. Remembers and honors Ibrahim + his sacrifice.

## In Britain:

There are large street processions in big cities. Men feel they should draw blood - encouraged to donate blood instead of beat themselves.

## Why is it important?

- Remembers the Prophet Ibrahim who was willing to sacrifice his son.
- Shows how important obedience to Allah is. He always knows best and we must have faith in Him.
- Ibrahim was given a ram to sacrifice instead of his son so Muslims now sacrifice an animal to remember this. They give leftover meat to the poor.

# ISLAM PRACTICES FESTIVALS



## How is it celebrated?

Big Party at the end of Hajj for those in Makkah.  
Cards and presents given. Those on their own invited to join neighbours.  
Muslims all over the world join in. They celebrate a Successful Hajj.  
Prayers at the Mosque.  
Animals slaughtered and meat donated.

## In Britain

Similar to Christmas. Muslims visit the Mosque for a service. They spend time with family and give presents. They may donate to charity instead of sacrificing an animal.

# Id-ul-Adha

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# SAWM

**Definition:** The month of the year during which Muslims fast in daylight hours.



→ Muslims start their fast at sunrise and stop at sunset.

→ They usually have a big meal with their families and then say prayers.

→ It isn't just food and drink Muslims must avoid. No sex or other entertainments - they should be focused on God.

The 9th month of the Muslim calendar year. It is the month that Muhammad first started to receive the Quran.



There are exemptions to fasting. Pregnant and breast feeding women are exempt as are ill people (diabetes). People who do not fast are expected to try and make up at a later date, if they can.

## Night of Power:

A special festival in the middle of Ramadan to remember the night Allah started to reveal the Quran to Muhammad. Muslims try to stay awake all night and pray.



## ISLAM PRACTICES PILLARS 4+5



**JIHAD:** To struggle against evil either as an individual or as a collective group of Muslims.

GREATER	LESSER	More detail in your peace + conflict booklet.
String to be the best possible Muslim. Following the 5 pillars correctly etc	String to defend Islam from direct threats. <u>Not</u> allow violence against innocents.	

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# HAJJ

**Definition:** Once in a lifetime journey fit + healthy Muslims take.



**ORIGIN STORY:** Ibrahim leaves his wife Hajira and son Ishmael in the desert. Pray for help and Ishmael finds a spring of water. Ibrahim told to build a shrine to God on this spot - the Ka'bah. A place of purity + worship.



## IHRAM:

A state of mental and physical purity. Ritual washing and simple white clothing. All are equal in eyes of Allah.

## Day 1:

1. Circle the Ka'bah and recite the pilgrim's prayer. Touch black stone - ancient Muslim relic.  
2. Walk in covered walkway between hills Safa + Marwah 7 times. Well of ZamZam.



## Day 2:

Walk to Arafat - where Muhammad last preached. All day praying - forgiveness granted if you admit wrongdoing. Reminder of Judgement Day.



## Day 3:

3 stone pillars - Jamarat - at Mina. Represent the devil and temptation. Throw stones to reject this evil. Finish with the Celebration of Id-ul-Adha.



## Significance of Hajj:

- Deeply spiritual experience - more aware of God's continual presence in life.
- Self-discipline developed
- Importance of equality and unity between all.
- Reminds Muslims of the examples of their prophets.
- It can lead to forgiveness of sin.

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# SHAHADAH



**Definition:** The Muslim Declaration of Faith. It is a key statement of belief for all Muslims.

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

- Muslims recite this in front of witnesses.
- It is recited many times during a life.
- It is the first thing a baby hears.
- It forms part of daily prayer.
- It should be the last thing a Muslim hears.
- It is the foundation of the other 4 pillars.

**WUDU:**  
Ritual washing before prayer.



WUDU

Helps Muslims prepare spiritually for prayer.



Direction of prayer should be focused toward God's city - Makkah.

Muslims may choose to pray in a mosque, led by an Imam.

Jummah prayer is special Friday prayer which Muslims try to do at a Mosque.

Prayer is important to Muslims because God has told them to do it. It is also a way for Muslims worldwide to come together to worship God.

A raka'ah is one full prayer sequence. It usually includes the Shahadah and Prostration (bowing to God). Each set of daily prayers includes a number of raka'ahs.



**Definition:** Prayer that all Muslims must perform.

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# SALAH

5 times a day.

**SHI'A** Muslims have the 10 obligatory Acts. These contain the 5 pillars of Sunni Islam as well as containing others, such as:

- Encouraging what is good.
- Being loving towards the friends of God.

**SHI'A KHUMS:**

- Unique to Shi'a Muslims
- In addition to Zakah.
- It is one fifth or 20% of additional earnings.
- Half of khums goes straight to Shi'a religious leaders to spend on behalf of God.
- The rest goes to the poor.



## ISLAM PRACTICES PILLARS 1-3

**Quote:** "Whatever you give should be for... orphans, the needy and travellers. God is well aware of what ever good you do."

- Giving shows that all things belong to God and must be shared.
- Only Muslims earning above the nisab give money.
- Muslims with less money are given money instead.
- Sadaqah is voluntary giving as well as Zakah.
- In the UK, Muslims give directly to a Charity - Muslim Aid.



**Definition:** The giving of 2.5% of wealth and earnings to the poor.

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# ZAKAH