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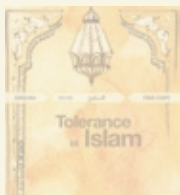
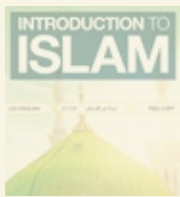
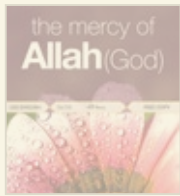
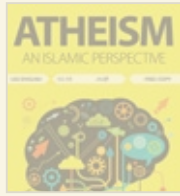
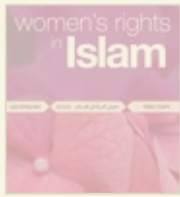
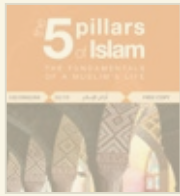
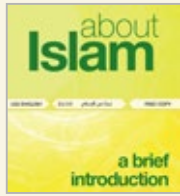


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a brief introduction



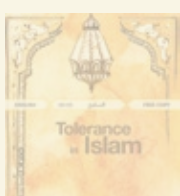
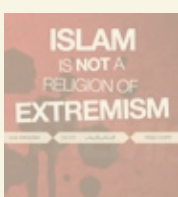
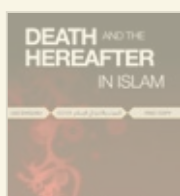
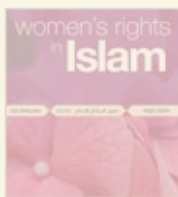
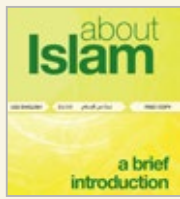
Your Path To Peace..

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about Islam

Islam is a natural and complete way of life. It encourages one to give due attention to their relationship with their Creator (God). It teaches that people find true lasting happiness and peace through being close to God, following His guidance and performing good deeds.

Muslims constitute approximately one fifth of the world's population, making Islam one of the largest religions. Belief in and worship of the One True God is the purpose of life and cornerstone of Islam.

A distinguishing feature of Islam, unlike many other religions, is that it is not named after a person or tribe.

The Arabic word "Islam" literally means "submission" to the One True God alone. One who voluntarily surrenders their will to God is called a Muslim, who can be from any racial or ethnic background.

The 6 Aspects (Articles) of Belief

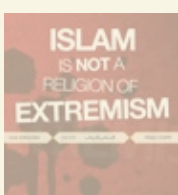
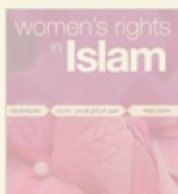
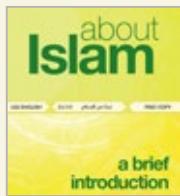
Allah is the personal name of the One True God.

1. Belief in Allah

"Allah" is the unique Arabic name of The One True God. Allah has no rivals, partners, equals, children or parents. He is not like His creation, as nothing shares His divine essence and perfect attributes. Some of His names and attributes include: The Creator, The Most Merciful, The Most High, The All-Powerful, The Most Just, The All-Wise, The Sustainer and The All-Knowing.

He is the Creator and Sustainer of all, the One who has granted us countless blessings, such as our faculties of hearing, seeing and thinking, as well as the ability to walk, talk and be productive. As such, we should acknowledge, thank and worship Him alone by following His guidance.

It is rational to conclude that such a complex and balanced universe is not possible by any other than a powerful and intelligent being. It is therefore illogical to believe that the universe created itself, or was the result of random or coincidental events.



2. Belief in **The Angels**

Angels are made from light, have allocated tasks and never disobey their Creator. Details about a few have been revealed, such as Gabriel, who delivers God's message to the Prophets, and the Angel of Death, who takes the souls of people.

3. Belief in **The Revealed Books**

Allah sent divine revelation to His Messengers as a guidance and mercy to mankind. These include the Torah and Gospel as originally revealed to Moses and Jesus respectively, and the Quran as revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

The Quran is the literal word of God and the final revelation to all of mankind. There are many clear signs and miracles that shows it is from God, examples of which include:

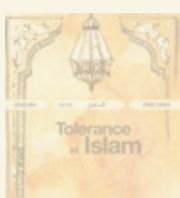
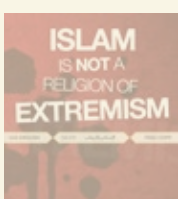
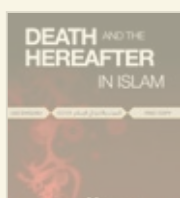
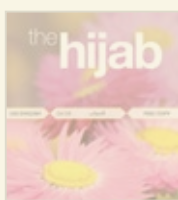
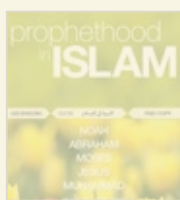
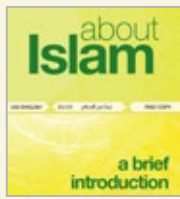
- Contains a simple, pure and universal message which appeals to Man's inherent beliefs about Almighty God.
- Contains a unique style of language that is universally known as the pinnacle of Arabic eloquence and linguistic beauty - yet the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was known, historically, to be illiterate.
- Contains many scientific facts which have only been discovered recently despite being revealed over 1400 years ago.
- Preserved, word-for-word, since it was revealed in its original Arabic language, unlike other scriptures which have been distorted, changed or lost.

Another miracle of the Qur'an is that it is free from any contradictions or errors.

The most rational explanation for the many unique and miraculous aspects of the Quran is that it can only be from God. Together with the authentic sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), it is the primary source of Islamic knowledge.

4. Belief in **The Prophets**

Muslims believe that thousands of Prophets were sent by Allah, at least one to every nation, to convey God's revelation. These Prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Joseph, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Their mission was to return people to the worship of the One True God, to serve as practical examples of how to obey God, and to guide people to the path of salvation. Prophets do not share in any part of God's divinity, and any type of prayer or worship towards the Prophets, or to God through them, is strictly forbidden and considered a violation of God's right to be worshipped alone.



- Prophet Jesus

Muslims believe that Jesus is an honourable prophet of God, born miraculously through his virgin mother Mary. He performed many miracles with the permission of God, such as healing the sick, curing the blind and speaking as a newborn defending his mother from accusations. Although Muslims respect and love Jesus, they do not worship him. He is not considered the son of God, nor part of a trinity, nor does he share in any of God's perfect attributes.

God says: "It is not befitting for Allah to take a son; exalted is He! When he decrees an affair, He only says, 'Be' and it is." Qur'an 19:35

- Prophet Muhammad

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the final Prophet sent to all of mankind. He came with the Quran to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied, and was a perfect example of an honest, just, merciful, compassionate, truthful and brave human being. As with Jesus, Muslims do not worship Muhammad.

5. Belief in The Day of Judgement

The Day of Judgment is the inevitable event when each one of us will stand before our Creator and be questioned about our good and bad deeds. Every one of our actions will be accounted for, regardless of size.

On this momentous Day, Allah, the All-Just, will settle all matters fairly and no person will be wronged. Everyone's rights will be returned. All will be treated justly, by either the reward of Paradise, or the punishment of the Hellfire.

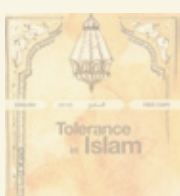
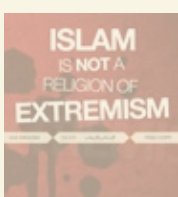
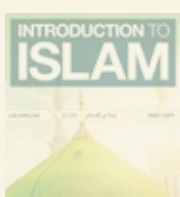
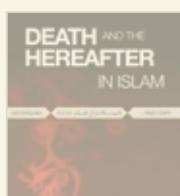
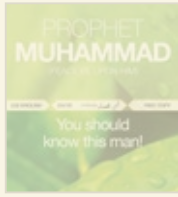
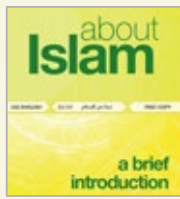
Without a Day of Judgement, life would be grossly unfair, as not everyone receives justice in this world.

6. Belief in Divine Destiny

Allah knows everything from the past, the present, and anything that will occur in the future. He has power over all things - nothing occurs without His knowledge and permission.

Every person has been given the free will to choose between right and wrong, and will be held to account accordingly.

Free will does not contradict the fact that events can only occur with God's knowledge and permission. Nor does it mean that God's power over everything prevents or restricts people's free will. God's knowledge of people's decisions does not mean that they are being forced to make such decisions, and God is not necessarily pleased with everything that He allows to occur.



W The 5 Pillars of Worship

The foundation of a Muslim's life

1. The Declaration of Faith

The declaration of faith is bearing witness there is no God worthy of worship but Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger. It must be based on a sincere and firm belief in the heart, followed by action. With this declaration, a person rejects all false deities, asserts that Allah is the only One worthy of worship, and accepts His final Messenger, hence becoming a Muslim.

2. The 5 Daily Prayers

Prayer establishes a personal and spiritual connection between the Muslim and their Creator, and is a constant and practical reminder of a person's duty to obey God.

The five prayers are prescribed once each at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall.

Each prayer can take a few minutes to perform, consisting of recitation of the Quran, supplications, praising Allah, and various movements. In preparation for prayer, Muslims wash certain parts of their body, such as the face and hands, to ensure spiritual and physical purity.

3. The Annual Charity

The annual charity is an obligation on every Muslim who meets certain criteria (e.g. has wealth above a certain threshold). A mere 2.5% of one's annual wealth is donated to those who are eligible, such as the poor, the needy or those in debt. It purifies one's wealth and carries many benefits for both the giver and the receiver. One benefit is it reduces the gap between the rich and poor, ensuring everyone has their basic needs met.

4. The Annual Fasting

Every year during the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, abstaining from food, drink and sexual relations. It serves as a spiritual purification, nurtures patience and self-restraint, and provides many health benefits.

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar.



5. The Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah, in Saudi Arabia, must be performed once in a person's life, if they are physically and financially able. It occurs annually in the 12th month of the Islamic calendar, unifying people of every colour, race, status and age, as they join in worship of the One True God. This great journey consists of many components, including sacrifices, travelling and praying at various sites. Such an experience is life altering and humbles a person, making them more patient and thankful.

All pilgrims wear simple and similar clothing, which strip away distinctions of class and culture, so that all stand equal before God.

W The Concept of Worship

Any action that Allah is pleased with

Islam's concept of worship is not restricted to only the five pillars. Worship is an all-inclusive term for any actions that are pleasing to Allah. Everyday activities can become acts of worship by purifying one's intention and ensuring one's actions are in line with God's guidelines. Examples include smiling, being good to one's neighbours, supporting one's family, being honest, and even removing rubbish from the road. It should be noted that Allah is not in need of anyone's worship, rather, we are in need of Him and our worship is for our benefit.

Conclusion

The above-mentioned aspects of faith and acts of worship make up the essence of Islam. When practised, Islam fulfils the spiritual, physical, psychological and social needs of all people, and is a practical and rational way of life. Furthermore, it is the only way of life which is accepted by God Almighty, and the only path that leads to everlasting Paradise.

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he 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." - Quran 16:97

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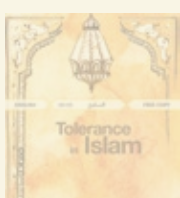
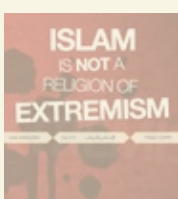
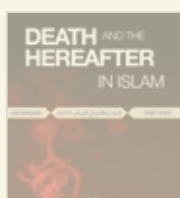
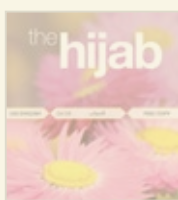
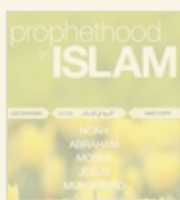
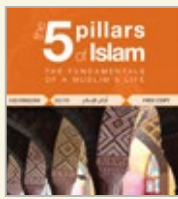
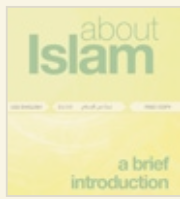
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the 5 pillars of Islam

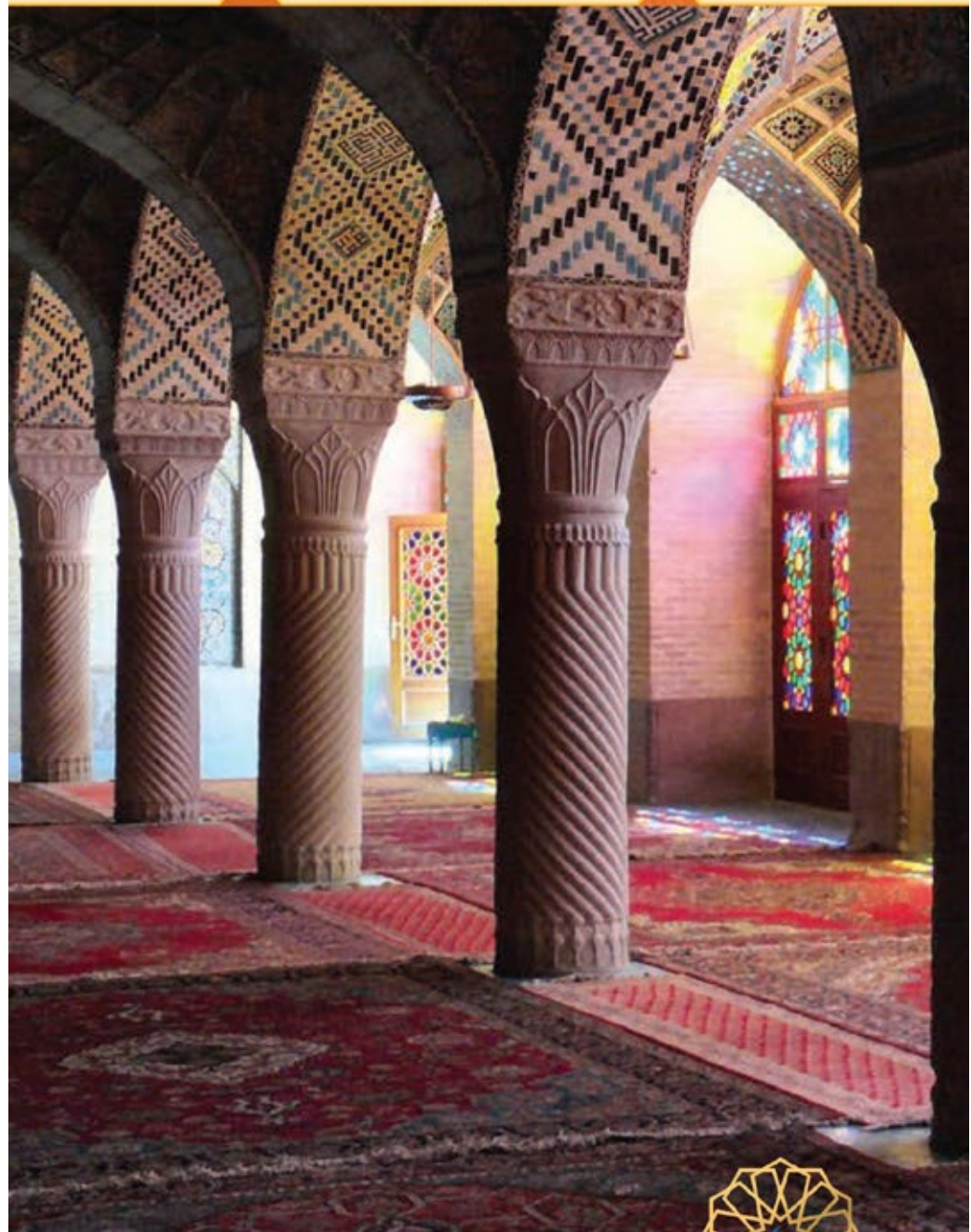
THE FUNDAMENTALS OF A MUSLIM'S LIFE

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introduction

Every sound structure must have a solid foundation in order to remain strong. Islam's foundation is the five pillars it was built upon, forming the basis of Islamic teaching as taught by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), wherein he said:

Islam is built upon five pillars:

- 1. The Declaration of Faith (Shahadah);***
- 2. Establishing regular prayers (Salah);***
- 3. Paying Charity (Zakah);***
- 4. Fasting the (lunar) month of Ramadan (Sawm);***
- 5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)***

These five pillars are a cornerstone of a Muslim's life.

1 Declaration of Faith SHAHADAH

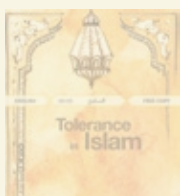
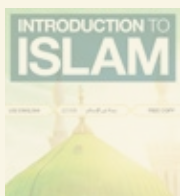
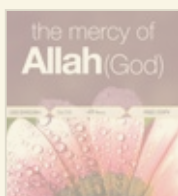
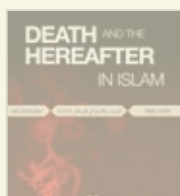
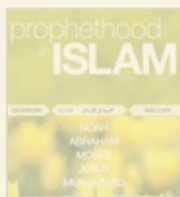
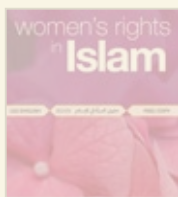
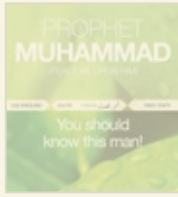
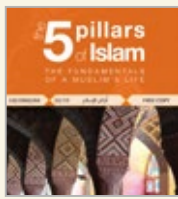
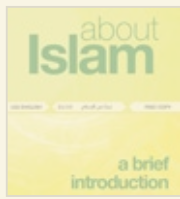
The declaration of faith is bearing witness (testifying) that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah (God), and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Servant and Messenger. It must be based on a sincere and firm belief in the heart, as well as being uttered verbally.

The first part of the declaration implies that:

- No person, object or being has the right to be worshipped except Allah alone. The Arabic name "Allah" refers to the One True God of all mankind and everything that exists.
- Allah alone is the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists, and He has power over all things.
- Allah alone has perfect attributes and is free from all deficiencies.
- Allah has no partner, equal, father, mother or son.

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

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Qur'an (the final revelation), in order to teach the people Allah's message, and serve as an example for all to follow.



Some benefits of the Declaration of Faith:

- Complete surrender to the will of Allah and becoming His true servant and subject.
- Produces a high degree of self-respect and confidence, while also remaining humble and modest.
- Produces strong determination, patience and perseverance, making a person brave and courageous, as well as dutiful and upright.
- Makes a person obey and observe Allah's commands.

2. The Prayer SALAH

The five daily prayers form the most important ritual of worship in a Muslim's life; one each at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: ***“Prayer is a pillar of the religion (Islam). Whoever establishes it, establishes religion; and whoever destroys it (e.g. neglects it), destroys religion.”***

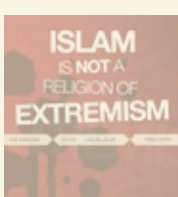
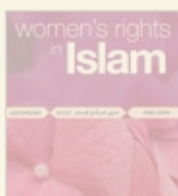
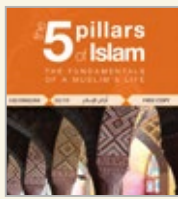
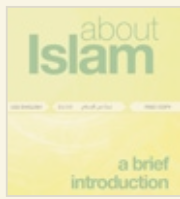
Prayer establishes a personal and spiritual connection between the Muslim and his Creator, based on faith, love, hope and reverence. When prayer is performed correctly with complete concentration, humility and sincerity, it will have an enduring effect on the person, filling his heart with contentment, peace and closeness with Allah.

*“Indeed, I am Allah! There is none worthy of worship but I, so worship Me and offer the prayer for My remembrance.”
Qur'an 20:14*

Prayer is the centre of a Muslim's life and the best way to achieve submission to Allah. It can be offered almost anywhere clean: such as in fields, offices, factories or universities; and takes only a few minutes to perform. It consists of recitation from the Holy Qur'an, supplicating to and praising Allah, with various body postures such as standing, bowing, prostrating and sitting. Through prayer, the Muslim remembers the greatness of his Creator and supplicates to Him for his needs and wishes.

Repeatedly humbling oneself before Allah prevents a person from falling into sin, and is a type of purification for one's soul, as mentioned in the Qur'an: ***“Verily, the prayer prevents one from the shameful and evil deeds.”*** Qur'an 29:45. Prayer is also an opportunity for repentance and seeking forgiveness from Allah.

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The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) asked his companions, *“If one of you had a river by his door in which he bathed five times a day, would any filth remain on him?”* They replied, *“No.”* Then the Prophet added, *“Likewise, Allah wipes away sins with the five daily prayers.”*

3. The Prescribed Charity

ZAKAH

All things belong to Allah, including wealth, which is considered as a trust. The prescribed charity (zakah) is an obligation on every Muslim who meets certain criteria (e.g. attained maturity, is sane, has wealth above a certain threshold). A small portion of wealth (includes 2.5% monetary and may include other assets) which must be paid annually to those who are eligible, as prescribed in the Qur'an (e.g. the poor and needy).

The Prophet (peace be on him) said: *“Allah has made zakah obligatory simply to purify your remaining wealth.”*

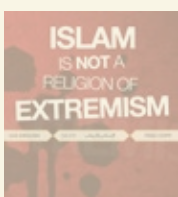
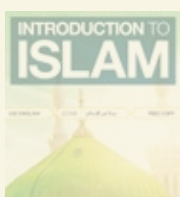
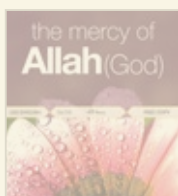
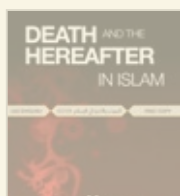
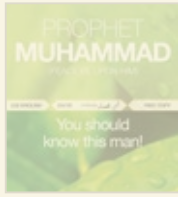
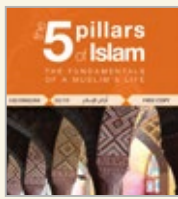
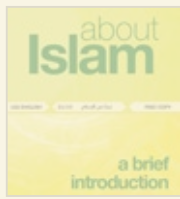
The meaning of the word “zakah”, is both ‘purification’ and ‘growth’. This is similar to the pruning of plants, whereby regularly trimming provides balance and encourages growth. By fulfilling this obligation, Muslims purify their remaining wealth, as well as ensure both financial and spiritual growth.

Some benefits of zakah:

- Purifies one from selfishness, arrogance and a greedy heart.
- Trains one to be sympathetic and compassionate towards the poor and needy.
- Reminds one of the blessings from Allah and encourages one to be grateful.
- Bridges the gap between different socio-economic classes and groups, and is a form of social security.
- Reduces poverty and ensures equality by making it obligatory upon the rich to share some of their wealth with the less fortunate *“...so that this (wealth) may not circulate solely among the rich from among you.”* Qur'an 59:7

“Those who establish the prayer (salah) and give the charity (zakah) ... these are the ones who will prosper.”
Qur'an 31:4-5

A person may also give as much as they please as additional voluntary charity.



4. Fasting

SAWM

"Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may attain piety."
Qur'an 2:183

As with any act of worship, fasting requires obedience and submission to Allah's commands through the highest degree of commitment and sincerity. Every year during the month of Ramadan (the 9th month of the lunar calendar), Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, abstaining from three key human needs - food, drink and sexual relations. One should also abstain from all sinful actions.

Fasting during Ramadan is obligatory on every physically and mentally capable adult Muslim. Children, the sick, the mentally unfit, the elderly, menstruating women, and travellers are exempt.

Some benefits of fasting:

- Promotes spiritual self-purification and growth.
- Scientifically proven health benefits.
- Sympathy for those less fortunate, prompting more charity.
- A means of learning self-restraint and patience.
- Purifies the soul and helps it acquire the habit of obeying Allah by restraining desires, and promotes steadfastness.
- Creates an increased feeling of unity and collective identity amongst those fasting.
- Creates an increased awareness about the state of affairs across the globe and the hardships endured.
- Forgiveness of sins. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, ***"He who fasts Ramadan, with faith and hoping for reward (from Allah), then his past sins are forgiven."***

5. Pilgrimage

HAJJ

Pilgrimage to the Holy city of Makkah (in Saudi Arabia) and other sacred sites must be performed at least once in a person's life, if they are physically and financially capable.

"And Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, for those who can afford the expenses (for one's transportation, provision and residence)."

Qur'an 3:97

Performing the pilgrimage is a temporary suspension of all worldly activities, and is a time for one to reflect, worship, seek the forgiveness of Allah and attain His closeness.



The Pilgrimage is an annual event in the 12th month of the lunar calendar (Dhul-Hijjah in Arabic), which unifies people of every colour, race, status and age, as they join in worship of the One True God. All pilgrims wear simple and similar clothing, which strips away distinctions of class and culture, so that all stand equal before Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, ***“Whoever performs Hajj and does not utter obscenities or commit sin, will come back just like the day when his mother bore him (i.e. pure of sins).”***

Hajj involves following in the footsteps of Prophet Abraham, as taught to us by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them). This great act of worship consists of many components including sacrificing an animal, supplicating, visiting and praying at various sites, circling the Ka’bah, walking between two mountains, as well as many other rituals, all of which are performed over a period of 6 continuous days.

Such an experience is life-altering and humbles a person, making them more patient and thankful to Allah. Brotherhood is increased, as is the sense that all Muslims, regardless of their differences, are one nation.

conclusion

The five pillars of Islam have been prescribed by Allah, and a Muslim is required to believe and act according to them. They are practical as well as easy, and the blessings and wisdom behind them are manifold. When put into perspective, they contribute to the well being of both the individual and the society, enhancing the character and manners of the individual, and making both society and individuals accountable and closer to Allah.

These noble pillars of Islam are purely for the benefit of His creation, as Allah (Glory be to Him!) is free of all needs. These five pillars provide the solid structure and ‘training programme’ for the betterment and success of all humanity.

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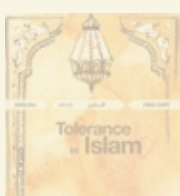
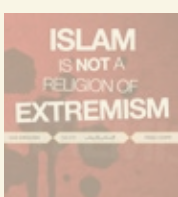
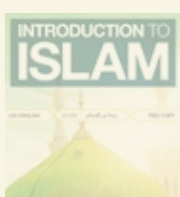
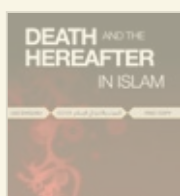
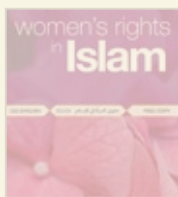
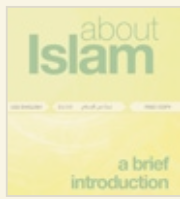
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THE CONCEPT OF GOD IN ISLAM

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(03/19) مفهوم الإله في الإسلام

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there is none greater than the creator



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is there a God?

There are many rational reasons for believing in God.
Three simple reasons are described below:

1. order of the universe

Imagine walking along the beach and finding a watch in the sand. Would you believe that the watch came together by itself? You would not conclude that the watch just happened to emerge from the sand by random chance. All the intricate working parts could not simply develop from the materials that lay buried in the earth. The watch must have a manufacturer. And if the watch tells accurate time we expect the manufacturer must be intelligent. Natural coincidences cannot produce a working watch.

Consider the planet earth. Its timing is so strictly regulated around the sun that scientists can publish in advance the sunrise and sunset times. Just as a watch has an intelligent maker to keep accurate time, so too must the earth have an intelligent maker to keep accurate time around the sun. Could this occur by itself?

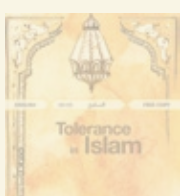
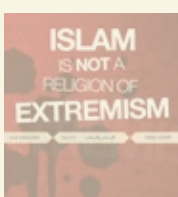
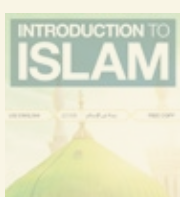
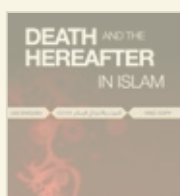
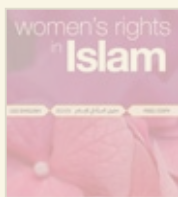
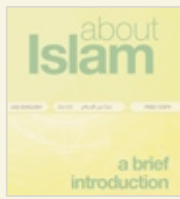
In the same way, when we see the order, precise laws and systems within ourselves and throughout the entire universe, is it not rational that the universe has an organiser? This 'organiser' is best explained by the existence of God - the one who brought about the order in the universe.

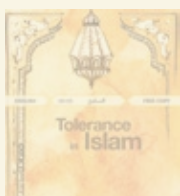
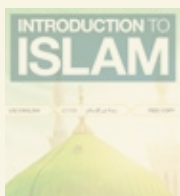
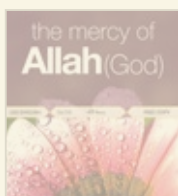
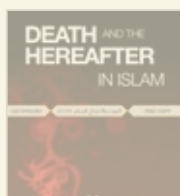
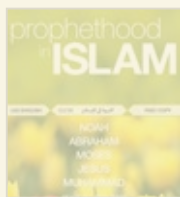
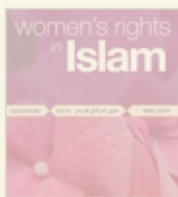
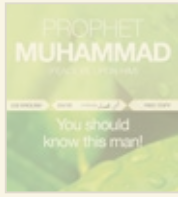
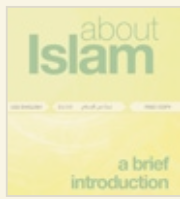
2. beginning of the universe

Modern science concludes that the universe has a beginning. This is based on a recent discovery that the universe is expanding, and if we go back in time, the universe converges - which points to a beginning. There are three possible explanations for the beginning of the universe, either:

1. The Universe came from nothing,
2. The Universe created itself, or
3. The Universe was created.

Human experience shows us that something that has a beginning does not simply come out of nothing.





As for the second explanation, simple logic tells us that something cannot do anything before having existed. This leaves the third point as the only rational explanation: a higher and intelligent being, God, created the universe.

Some people may ask, "Who created God"? God, The Creator, is different to His creation. If He was the same as creation, He would also need a creator, leading to an infinite amount of creators, which is impossible. He is beyond time and the physical matter of this universe. God has always existed and has no beginning; therefore the question of who created God is irrational.

3. revelation from God

If God revealed a book of guidance to humanity, we would expect that such a book would contain clear evidence of the existence of God.

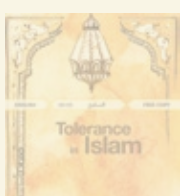
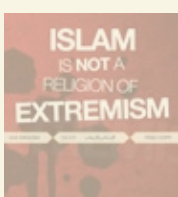
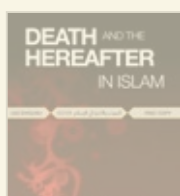
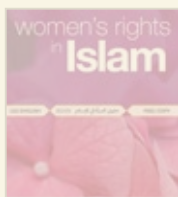
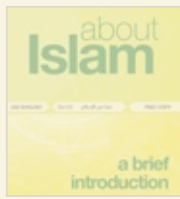
There are clear signs that the book of Islam, the Quran, is the word of God. Below is a very brief summary of reasons that support this claim:

- The Quran was revealed over 1400 years ago and contains many scientific facts that were unknown to the people of that time which have only been discovered recently by contemporary science. Examples include: water being the origin of all living things (Quran 21:30); the expanding universe (Quran 51:47); and the individual orbits of the sun and moon (Quran 21:33).

- The Quran contains many historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time as well as numerous predictions which have both proven to be correct.
- The Quran is free from any errors or contradictions.
- The Quran has been preserved, word-for-word, since it was revealed in its original Arabic language, unlike other scriptures which no longer exist in their original form.
- The simple, pure and universal message of the Quran appeals to Man's inherent beliefs about Almighty God.

- The Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was known in history to be illiterate. Yet, the Quran contains a unique style of language that is universally known as the pinnacle of Arabic eloquence and linguistic beauty.

The most rational explanation for the many unique and miraculous aspects of the Quran is that it is from God.



who is God?

“And your god is One God. There is no god but He.”
Quran 2:163

“Allah” is the personal name of the One True God. Nothing else can be called Allah.

The term has no plural or gender unlike the English word “God” which can be made both plural and feminine (i.e. gods/goddess). The unique usage of “Allah” is a reflection of Islam’s emphasis on the purity of the belief in One God.

The main beauty of Islam is that it acknowledges the complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness of God with absolutely no compromises. This is reflected in Islam’s pure teachings of the attributes of God.

God is one & unique

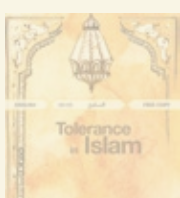
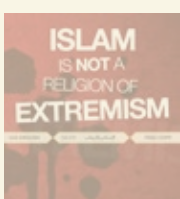
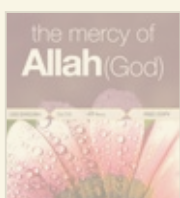
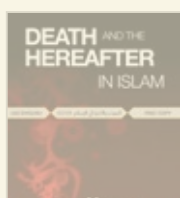
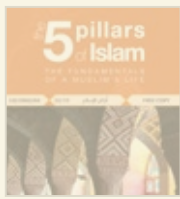
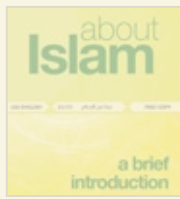
- God has no partners, no equals and no rivals.
- God has no father, mother, sons, daughters or wives.
- God alone is worthy of all worship.
- Had there been more than one God, it would reflect deficiency in His power or authority as this would involve God having rivalry, making compromises or needing agreement with other gods.

God is all-powerful

- God has full authority and power over all things
- Everything is completely subservient and dependent on Him.
- Obedience to God does not increase His Power, nor does disobedience decrease His power in any way.

God is the most high

- There is nothing above or comparable to God.
- The attributes of God do not resemble that of His creation.
- No part of God is present in anyone or anything.
- God is perfect and does not have any human limitations, such as resting on the seventh day after he created the universe, as claimed by some other religions



God is the all-just & all-merciful

- God 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.
- Humans may distinguish themselves and earn God’s favour through belief, virtue and piety only - not through race, wealth or social class.

the nature of Jesus

When explaining the concept of God in Islam it is important to discuss the status of Jesus, given the widespread confusion and claims about the nature of Jesus.

Some Christians claim that **“Jesus is God”** - that is, 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 and lacks such perfection. So how can anything be two complete opposites both at the same time? This is not rational.

However, some people may ask, “If God can do anything, why can’t he become a man?” By definition, God does not do ungodly acts, so if God became man and took on human attributes, he would, necessarily, no longer be God.

Furthermore, 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?

Some Christians also claim that **“Jesus is the Son of God”** but we should ask ourselves, what does this actually mean?

Surely God is far removed from having a physical and literal son. Rather, we find that the term “Son of God” is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a “righteous person”. It is used throughout the Old Testament for many righteous people such as David,

Solomon and Israel - not exclusively for Jesus. **“...Israel is my firstborn son,”** (Exodus 4:22) is one such example.

“It is not befitting for Allah to take a son; He is perfect and flawless.”
Quran 19:35



The Islamic belief about Jesus explains who the real Jesus was, whilst maintaining the pure belief about God and His Greatness. Jesus was as an honourable Prophet sent by God to call to the worship of God alone.

God Alone is Worthy of Worship

“And worship Allah and associate none with Him.” Quran 4:36

Islam teaches that all prayer and acts of worship should be exclusively to God. Nothing else is worthy of worship: not statues, graves, the sun, the moon, animals, Prophets, saints, angels, priests or religious scholars. All of these things are created and limited, hence imperfect, whereas Allah is perfect.

God is Worshipped Directly

God does not need any partners or intermediaries. Everyone always has direct access to worship God, as He hears all who praise and call upon Him. Worshipping Allah indirectly (e.g. through idols, statues or other intermediaries) is viewed as compromising Allah's Oneness and purity of worship that He alone, is worthy of.

All Prophets Called to the Worship of God

“And We (God) certainly sent into every nation a Messenger, saying, ‘Worship Allah and avoid false gods.’ ” Quran 16:36

Muslims believe in all the Prophets that Allah sent. These prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. They all came with the same message – to call their people to the belief and worship of the One True God.

The Purpose of Life is to Worship God

The ultimate purpose of life is to acknowledge the greatness of God, establish a direct connection with him, and worship Him alone. The concept of worship in Islam is not limited to rituals such as praying and fasting, it includes all actions that are pleasing to God such as having good manners, being honest, establishing justice, being patient and helping the needy.

In conclusion, the foundation of Islam is belief in the Oneness and Uniqueness of Almighty God, who is the Creator and Lord of all, perfect in all His attributes. He alone deserves all worship. Therein lies our success in this life and the next.

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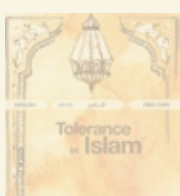
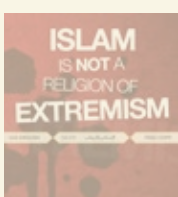
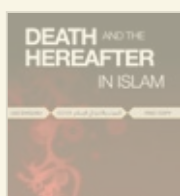
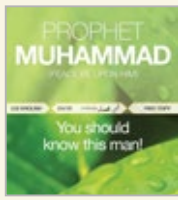
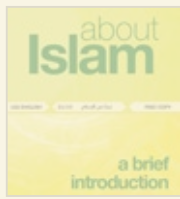
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PROPHET MUHAMMAD

(PEACE BE UPON HIM)

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النبي محمد عليه الصلاة والسلام

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You should know this man!



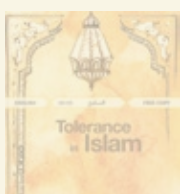
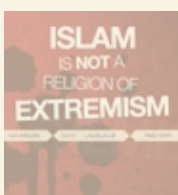
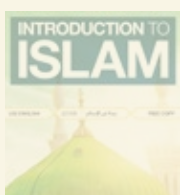
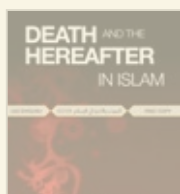
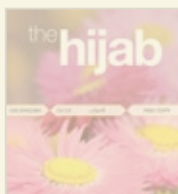
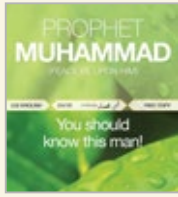
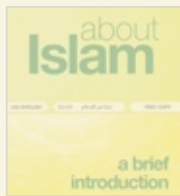
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who is (peace be upon him) Muhammad?

“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

Muslims believe that 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).

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), Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Qur'an to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied.

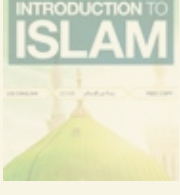
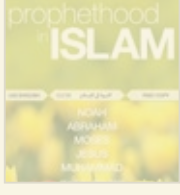
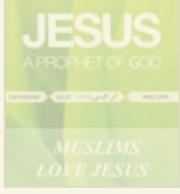
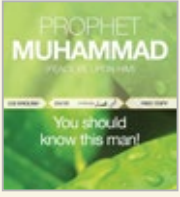
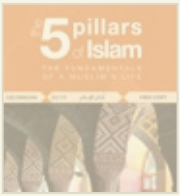
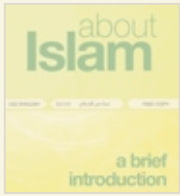
The Prophet's (peace be upon him) wife, Aisha, was once asked to describe the Prophet (peace be upon him), and she replied that he was *'the Qur'an walking'*, meaning he meticulously implemented the noble teachings of the Qur'an into his daily life. We will demonstrate how he translated these noble teachings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

“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

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was all for 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

equality

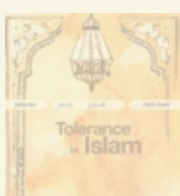
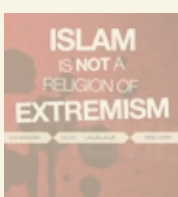
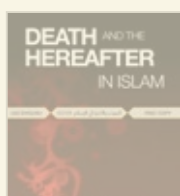
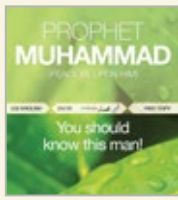
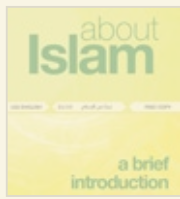
“Indeed the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you.”
Qur’an 49:13

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

“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.”**

“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

tolerance

“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.”**

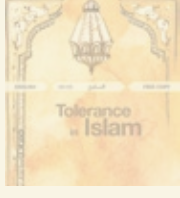
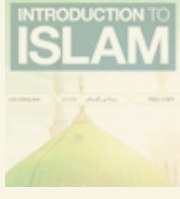
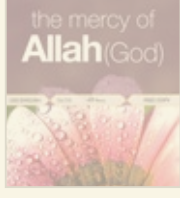
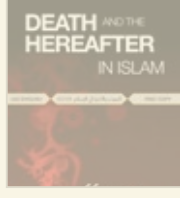
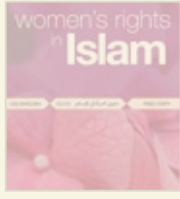
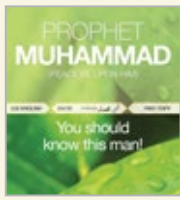
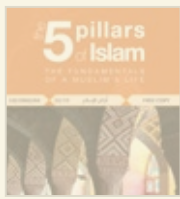
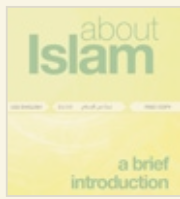
Practising patience and tolerance does not mean that a Muslim should be a passivist and not defend himself in case of attack. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated that, **“Do not wish to meet the enemy, but when you meet (face) the enemy, be patient (i.e. stand firm when facing the enemy).”**

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.”**

“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

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



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.

“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

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.”**

“And live with them (your spouses) in kindness.”
Qur’an 4:19

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.”**



*“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 the 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. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted 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.”**

HOTLINE

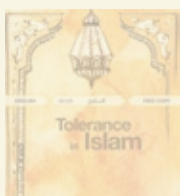
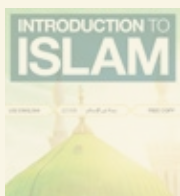
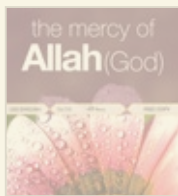
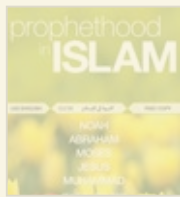
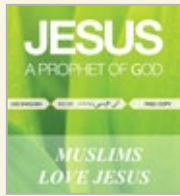
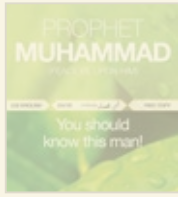
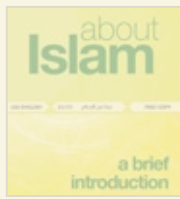
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A PROPHET OF GOD

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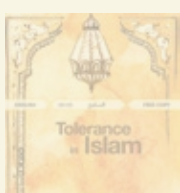
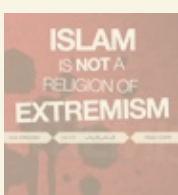
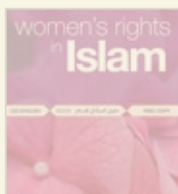
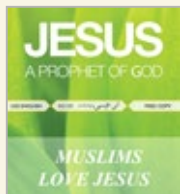
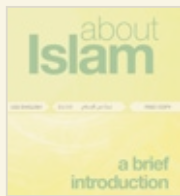
تصريح رقم:
(2017/139)

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department



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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”

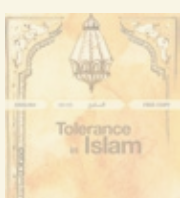
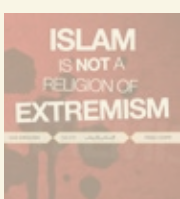
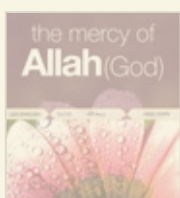
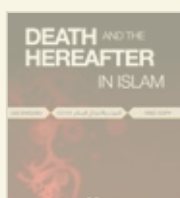
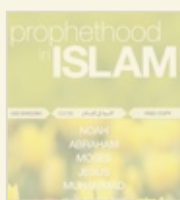
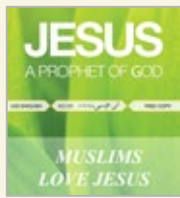
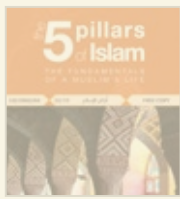
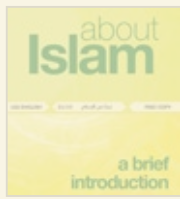
Some Christians claim that “Jesus is God” or part of a trinity - that he is the incarnation of God on earth, and that God took on a human form. However, according to the Bible, Jesus was born, ate, slept, prayed and had limited knowledge – all attributes not befitting God. God has attributes of perfection 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.”

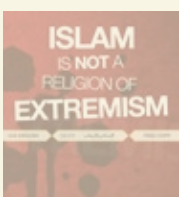
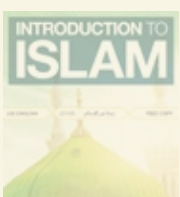
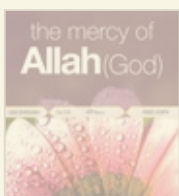
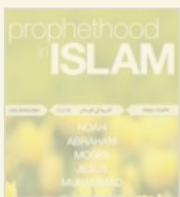
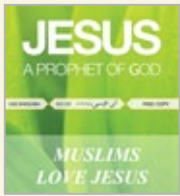
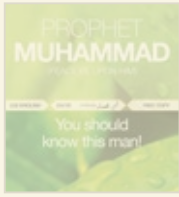
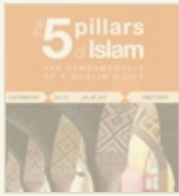
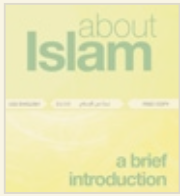
Quran 19:35

“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.

Attempts are made to explain the complexity of the above issues of the nature of God and the nature of Jesus, which can be quite confusing or unsatisfying. However, the key point to ponder is: Why would God make it so hard to understand? How do these complicated teachings compare with the simple, clear and pure teachings of the concept of God in Islam?

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*

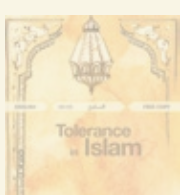
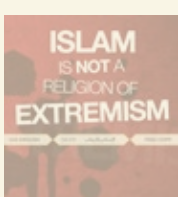
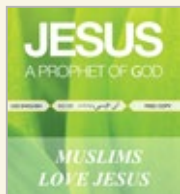
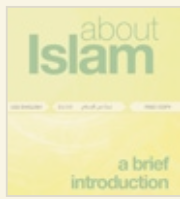
MIRACULOUS BIRTH

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.

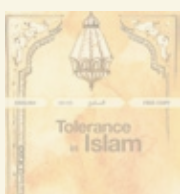
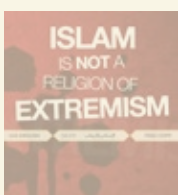
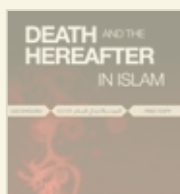
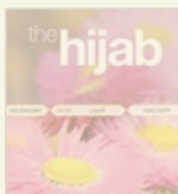
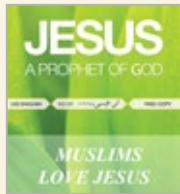
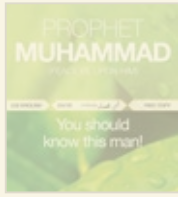
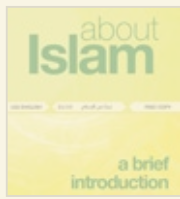
The fact that Jesus (peace be upon him) performed miracles does not mean that he was anything more than a humble servant of God. In fact, many Messengers performed miracles, including Noah, Moses and Muhammad (may peace be upon them all) and these miracles only took place by the permission of God, so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

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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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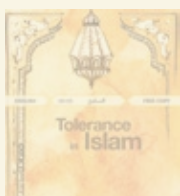
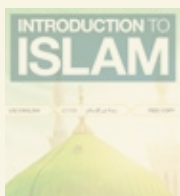
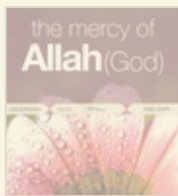
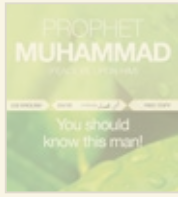
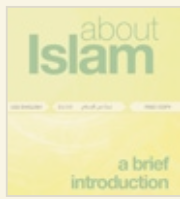
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what is the purpose of life?

L02 ENGLISH

(06/19)

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where
did I come from?

why
am I here?

where
am I going?



Your Path To Peace..

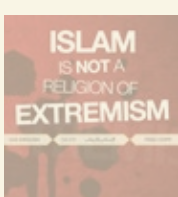
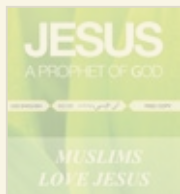
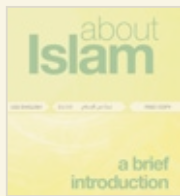


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Islamic Information Center

المعرفة بالاسلام

تصدير رقم: (2017/139) دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?

One of the first questions that comes to mind when considering our purpose of life is, **“where did we come from?”** Are we here based on random natural coincidences or is there a higher intelligent being, a creator? There are many logical and rational reasons for believing in a creator. Three reasons are briefly mentioned below.

1. beginning of the universe

The first evidence that points to the existence of a Creator relates to understanding the origin of the universe.

Imagine walking in a desert and finding a watch. We know a watch consists of glass, plastic and metal. Glass comes from sand, plastic from oil, and metal extracted from the ground - all these components are found in the desert. Would you believe that the watch 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 watch came together by random or natural coincidences?

Some may ask, “Who created God”? God, the Creator, is different to His creation. God is eternal, has always existed and has no beginning.

Human experience and simple logic tells us that something that has a beginning does not simply come from nothing, nor can something create itself. Therefore, the most rational explanation is that a higher “being” created the universe. This “being” must be powerful and intelligent as it brought the whole universe into existence and created the ‘laws of science’

which govern it. We can also reason that this “being” is timeless and not bound by space, because time, space and matter began at the creation of the universe. All of these attributes make up the basic concept of God, the creator of the universe. This is in perfect agreement with modern science which concludes that the universe is finite and has a beginning.

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2. perfection of the universe

The second evidence that points to the existence of an intelligent creator, God, is the order and perfect balance of our complex universe.

Many features in the universe clearly indicate it to be specially 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 tilt. If these measurements were slightly different to what they currently are, life could not exist.

In the same way that a watch has an intelligent maker to keep accurate time, so too must the earth have an intelligent maker to keep accurate time around the sun. Could this occur by itself?

"Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding."
Quran 3:190

When we see the order, precise laws and systems within ourselves and throughout the universe, is it not rational they have an organiser? This 'organiser' is again best explained by the existence of God - the one who brought about this order.

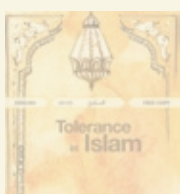
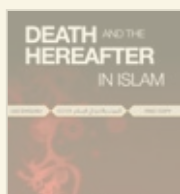
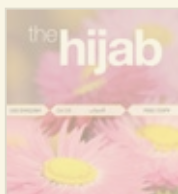
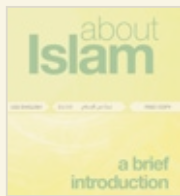
3. revelation from God

The third evidence that points to the existence of a Creator, God, is the actual revelation that has been sent to humankind as a sign of His existence. There are clear signs that the book of Islam, the Quran, is the word of God. Below is a brief summary of reasons that support this claim. **The Quran:**

If God revealed a book of guidance, we would expect it to contain clear evidence of God's existence.

- Is over 1400 years old and contains many scientific facts that were unknown to people of that time and which have only been discovered recently by science. Examples include: water being the origin of all living things (Quran 21:30); the expanding universe (Quran 51:47); and the individual orbits of the sun and moon (Quran 21:33).
- Contains many historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time as well as numerous predictions which have proven to be correct.

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- Is free from any errors or contradictions despite gradual revelation over 23 years and covering a wide variety of topics.
- Has been preserved, word-for-word, since its revelation in its original Arabic language, unlike other scriptures which no longer exist in their original form.
- Has a simple, pure and universal message which appeals to Man's intellect and inherent beliefs about Almighty God.
- Has a deep and moving effect on people.
- Was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was known to be illiterate, yet contains a unique style of language that is universally known as the pinnacle of Arabic eloquence and linguistic beauty.

The most rational explanation for the many unique and miraculous aspects of the Quran is that it is from God.

God sends guidance

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

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

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.

The Quran is a book of guidance and explains many concepts such as the purpose of our existence; who God is; the actions liked and disliked by God; the stories of the Prophets and their lessons; accounts of Heaven, Hell, and the Day of Judgement. It aims to clarify misunderstandings about the nature of God, such as clarifying the nature and role of Jesus compared to the nature of God.

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

Quran 19:36



the nature of Jesus

When trying to understand the concept of God in Islam, it is important to discuss the status of Jesus, given the widespread confusion and claims about his nature.

Some Christians claim that **“Jesus is God”** or part of a trinity - that is, 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. So how can anything be two complete opposites both at the same time? This is not rational.

However, some may ask, **“If God can do anything, why can't he become a man?”** By definition, God does not do ungodly acts, so if God became man and took on human attributes, he would, necessarily, no longer be God.

Furthermore, 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 majority of Christians claim that **“Jesus is the Son of God.”** We should ask ourselves, what does this actually mean? Surely God is far removed from having a physical and literal son. Rather, we find that the term **“Son of God”** is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a **“righteous person”**. It is used throughout the Old Testament for many righteous people such as David, Solomon and Israel - not exclusively for Jesus, **“...Israel is my firstborn son,”** (Exodus 4:22) is one such example.

“It is not befitting for Allah to take a son; He is perfect and flawless!”

Quran 19:35

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. Jesus was as an honourable Prophet sent by God to call to the worship of God alone.



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 reliance on Allah, fasting, prayer, as well as beneficial acts to society, like being good to one's neighbours, supporting one's family, honesty, and caring for animals.

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

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 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 history, background or present 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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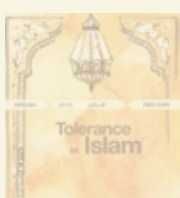
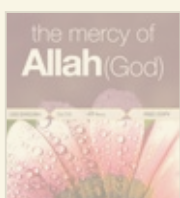
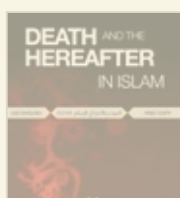
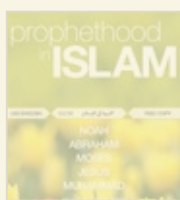
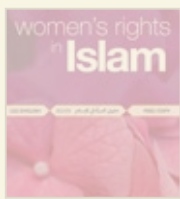
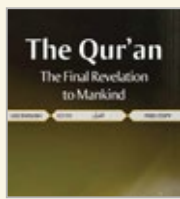
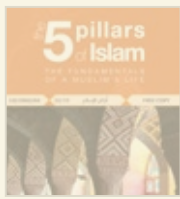
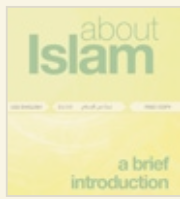
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The Qur'an

The Final Revelation to Mankind

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Your Path To Peace..

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تصدير رقم: (2017/139) دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department

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What is the Qur'an?

The Word of God

The Qur'an is the literal word of God, The Almighty (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 to help mankind judge between right and wrong, without which, man would surely be in 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.

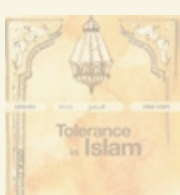
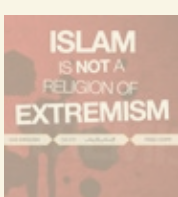
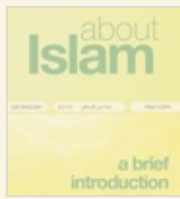
"O you who have been given the Scripture! Believe in what We have revealed confirming what is (already) with you..."
Qur'an 4:47

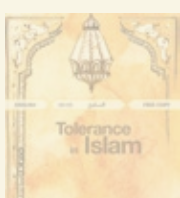
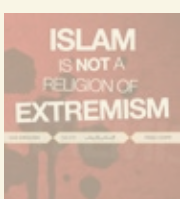
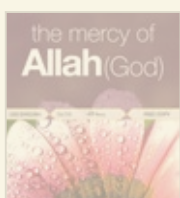
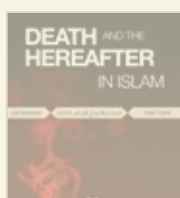
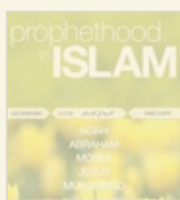
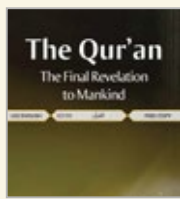
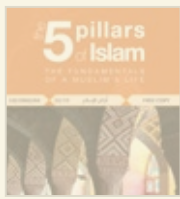
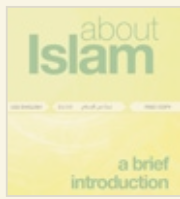
How was the Qur'an Revealed?

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 th

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.

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at it is from God?

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 the 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.

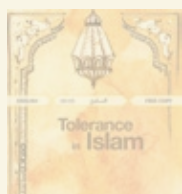
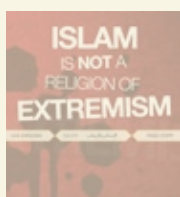
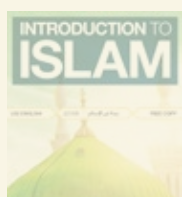
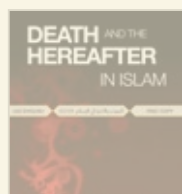
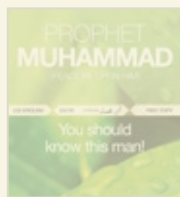
Couldn't Muhammad have authored it?

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

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

Qur'an 10: 37

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.



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

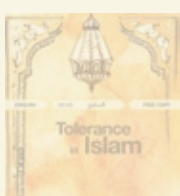
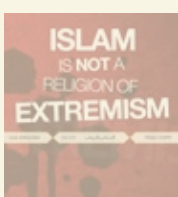
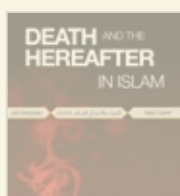
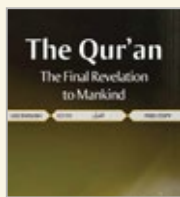
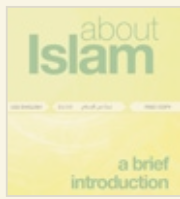
The Qur’an contains many narratives with beneficial lessons, including the true stories of previous Prophets such as, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jesus and Moses. Of these stories, Allah says, *“Indeed in their stories, there is a lesson for men of understanding.” Qur’an 12:111*

To Remind us of the Day of Judgement

This Noble Book 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 Fulfil 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?



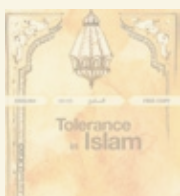
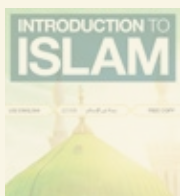
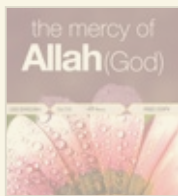
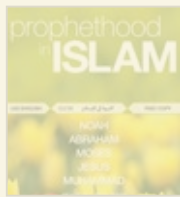
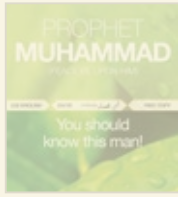
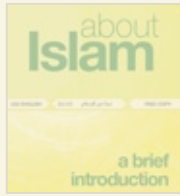
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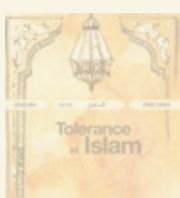
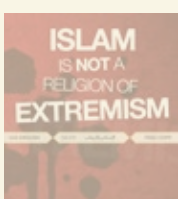
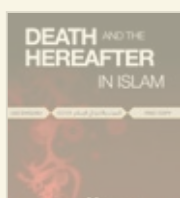
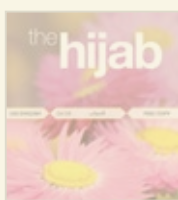
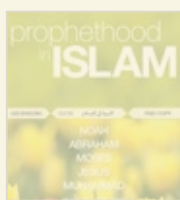
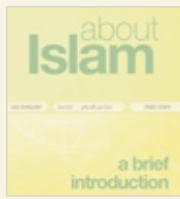
تصريح رقم
(2017/139)

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department



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WHAT is Islam and who are Muslims?

Islam is a natural and complete way of life that encourages one to give due attention to their relationship with God and His creation. It teaches that souls find true happiness and peace through performing good actions that are approved by God and which benefit both the society and the individual.

The message of Islam is simple: to believe in and to worship The One True God alone, and to accept Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as His final Messenger. The word "Islam" means submission to God, and its followers are known as 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, in this world and the hereafter. 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.

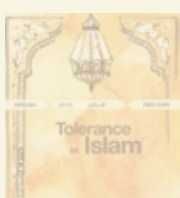
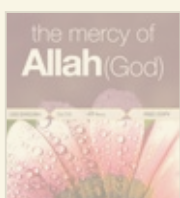
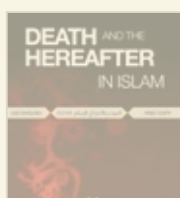
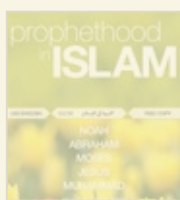
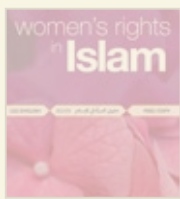
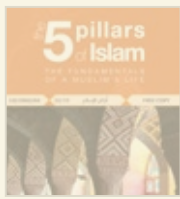
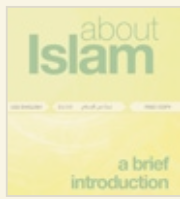
In God's ultimate wisdom, He gave humans free will as a test to see who will willingly follow His path.

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 directly and 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, Muslims, unlike the followers of some other Prophets, did not worshipped him.



WHY believe in God?

There are many reasons for believing in God including those based on simple logic (summarised below) and through revelation (summarized in the next section).

Beginning of the Universe - A fairly straightforward reason for believing in God relates to reflecting on the origin of the universe. Where did the universe ultimately come from? The universe hasn't always existed (it has a beginning according to modern science) and it couldn't have come from nothing or create itself. A reasonable conclusion is that it was created. Unlike the universe, The Creator of the universe, God, is eternal, has no beginning and has always existed.

Order of the Universe - Another simple reason for believing in God is by pondering over the order of the universe using the following logic:

1. Anything that is ordered indicates intelligence
2. Our solar system is highly ordered with intricate laws, systems and patterns
3. Therefore, the order in our universe indicates the existence and intelligence of the Creator.

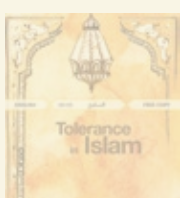
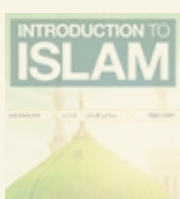
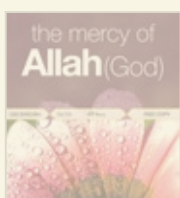
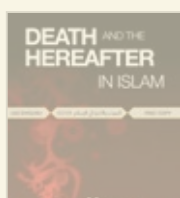
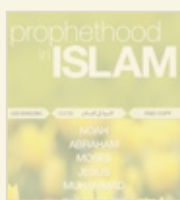
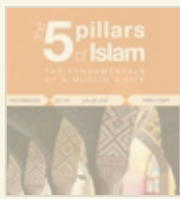
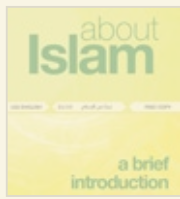
WHAT is the Quran?

The provides a strong argument for the existence of God for those who are open-minded and sincere. It is unmatched in its style, wisdom, guidance, beauty and eloquence. It is the literal word of God, 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 is the primary source of Islamic knowledge. 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.

The Quran is the literal word of God and the final revelation to mankind.

WHAT are Islam's main practices?

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 daily: once each at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset and at night.

3rd Pillar: Prescribed Charity. This is an annual compulsory charity paid to those less fortunate and is calculated as a small portion of one's total annual savings, which includes 2.5% of monetary wealth and may include other assets. It is paid by those who have excess wealth.

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. It promotes self-restraint, consciousness of God and empathy to the poor.

5th Pillar: The Pilgrimage. Every able Muslim is required to make the pilgrimage to Mecca in their lifetime. It involves prayer, supplication, charity and travelling, and is a very humbling and spiritual experience.

WHAT do Muslims believe about Jesus & other Prophets?

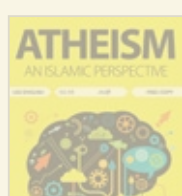
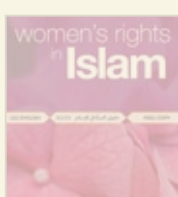
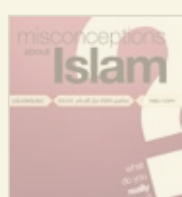
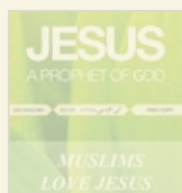
Thousands of Prophets were sent by Allah, at least one to every nation, with the same message: to worship Allah alone and not associate any partner with Him. Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Joseph, Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

Jesus was born miraculously without a father and performed many miracles - all by the will of God.

Jesus (peace be upon him) was one of the greatest Prophets sent by Almighty God. Jesus is not God or the son of God or part of a trinity as this clearly contradicts the pure teachings of God in Islam. Consider the following:

- There are many examples in Christian teachings of Jesus speaking and behaving as if God is a separate being to himself, e.g. Jesus prays to God - If Jesus was God, who would he be praying to?
- The term "Son of God" is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a "righteous person" for many people - not exclusively for Jesus. The problem arises when using the term literally or in other ways.

Although Muslims love and respect Jesus (and all other Prophets), they do not worship him nor attribute to him divine attributes, as this is reserved solely for God.



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 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. 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.

HOW does Islam view women?

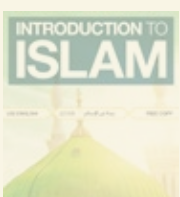
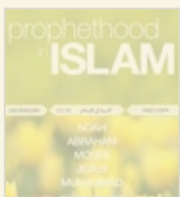
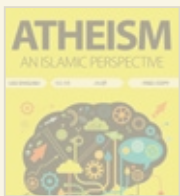
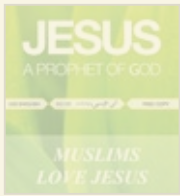
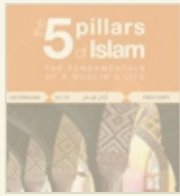
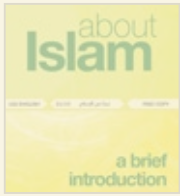
In Islam, men and women are viewed as equals before God, in terms of both receiving equal reward and accountability for their actions. Allah, the Creator of both genders, has assigned different roles and responsibilities for each, taking into account their differences. Women are given the utmost respect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

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 were not responsible for.

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 fighting for the sake of God. 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.

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 very few exceptions such as pig, alcohol and the meat that is not produced through a Sharia-wise manner. Meats and poultry must be slaughtered humanely and correctly, which includes mentioning God's name before slaughter and minimising the suffering of animals.

WHO can become a Muslim?

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'.

Becoming a Muslim means acknowledging the greatness of The Creator and developing and maintaining a close relationship with Him by obeying Him. This will lead to happiness and contentment in this life and the next, and the realisation of one's purpose of life.

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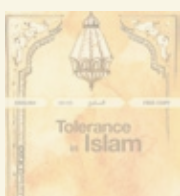
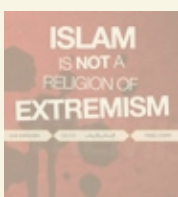
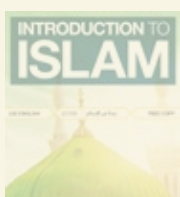
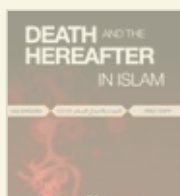
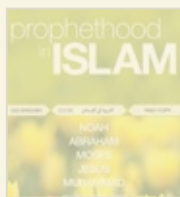
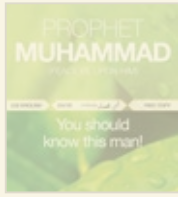
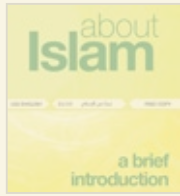
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OPPRESSION
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moon
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values



Your Path To Peace..

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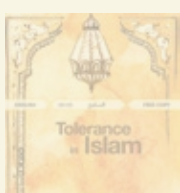
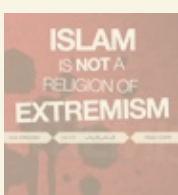
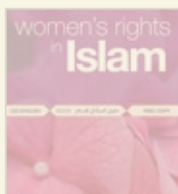
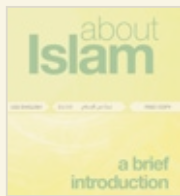
التبرير والبيان

تصريح رقم
(2017/139)

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
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introduction

Islam is one of the world's largest religions yet it is also one of the most misunderstood. For various reasons - be they political, economic, biased media or fear of the "other" - mistruths and misconceptions have been spread about Islam. The key to understanding Islam and Muslims is to resist stereotypes and examine each situation according to Islamic teachings and authentic sources?

1. "Muslims do not share **good & noble values** with non-Muslims"

Some people allege that Islamic values are somehow incompatible with decent "Western" values. Such claims could not be further from the truth.

Muslims cherish noble and universal values such as:

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character."
Prophet Muhammad
(peace be upon him)

- being honest and just
- keeping one's word
- allowing freedom of religion
- respecting parents, relatives, neighbours, and the elderly
- being charitable, generous, and looking after the poor and needy
- **not** lying, cheating, swearing or backbiting anyone

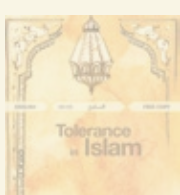
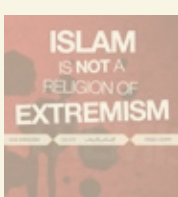
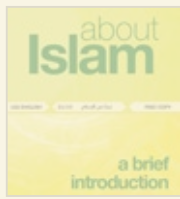
Muslims are required to contribute positively towards society and to always conduct themselves with the highest of morals and best of actions.

2. "Muslims worship a **new** god called **Allah**"

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.

Muslims worship the same God worshipped by Prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

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 God, the Almighty.



3. “Islam permits terrorism”

The media generally portrays any Muslim who fights as a terrorist, regardless of whether they fight justly or unjustly, or whether they are oppressing others or being oppressed.

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

The Quran clearly demonstrates the seriousness of killing an innocent person, and emphasises the value of human life:

“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.”

Quran 5:32

4. “Islam oppresses women”

In Islam, men and women are viewed as equals before God, in terms of both receiving equal reward and accountability for their actions. 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 Allah is the most God conscious.” - Quran 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.

Women are given the utmost respect and honour, such as the right to equal pay, choice of spouse, pursuit of education, and the right to divorce and inheritance.

Unfortunately, there are some Muslim women who are oppressed and not given their rights. This is not the fault of Islam. The problem is that in some countries, people follow certain cultural practices and traditions which have nothing to do with Islam.

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



5. “The Quran is just another history or poetry book”

The Quran is the divine literal word of God Almighty, revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), through the angel Gabriel. It is a criterion for the truth, containing guidance for humanity to live by. The Quran cites lessons from preceding generations and the history of the Prophets in order that we may learn from their experiences. It further teaches us about ourselves and our Creator, as well as the purpose of our existence which is to acknowledge God, worshipping Him alone.

God did not create humans to simply wander aimlessly. The test of one's faith is in using one's intellect, free will and reasoning abilities to contemplate and recognise God's signs - one of the greatest signs being The Quran.

The Quran contains within it many miracles, so that we can have no doubt about its authenticity.

The best way to discover what the Quran is actually about, is to read it for yourself.

6. “Hijab is oppressive”

To observe the hijab, Muslim women are required to modestly cover their body with clothes that do not reveal their figure in front of non-closely related males. However, hijab is not just about outer appearances; it is also about noble speech, modesty, and dignified conduct.

Although there are many benefits of the hijab, the key reason Muslim women observe hijab is because it is a command from Allah (God), and He knows what is best for His creation.

The hijab empowers a woman by emphasising her inner spiritual beauty, rather than her superficial appearance. It gives women the freedom to be active members of society, while maintaining their modesty.

The hijab does not symbolize suppression, oppression or silence. Rather, it is a guard against degrading remarks, unwanted advances and unfair discrimination. So the next time you see a Muslim woman, know that she covers her physical appearance, not her mind or intellect.

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7. “All Muslims are **Arabs**”

Only about 20% of Muslims in the world are Arabs, meaning that up to about 80% of Muslims are non-Arabs. For example, there are more Indian and Indonesian Muslims than Arab Muslims.

Islam teaches that an individual is not superior to another because of race or colour, and is strictly against any form of racism. Islam has a universal message for all of mankind - that is, that everyone can gain peace and success only by acknowledging and worshipping the One True God.

8. “Jihad is **terrorism**”

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 one's striving to do good deeds, give charity, or to join 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. This can be either defensive or offensive, depending on the circumstance.

9. “Muslims **worship** Muhammad or the **moon** god”

Islam teaches Muslims to respect all of God's Prophets and Messengers – but respecting and loving them does not mean worshipping them.

Yet another misconception is that Muslims worship Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This is entirely untrue, and is easily refuted by the actual saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him): **“Do not over-praise me as the Christians over-praised Jesus, the son of Mary.**

I am His slave, so refer to me as ‘God's slave and Messenger.’ ”

A related claim is that Muslims worship the “moon God” which is also totally incorrect. Worshipping the moon, or anything other than Allah, is strictly prohibited in Islam:

“Do not prostrate to the sun or to the moon, but prostrate to Allah Who created them, if you really worship Him.” - Quran 41:37

Islam acknowledges the complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness of God with absolutely no compromises. He is the Most Just and the Most Merciful. Worshipping Him alone is the most important belief in Islam, as mentioned in the Quran in numerous places.



10. “Islam permits **forced** marriages”

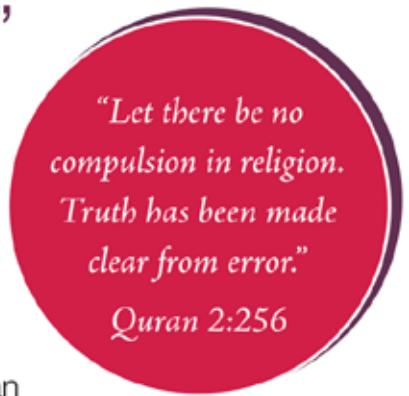
Arranged marriages are cultural practices which are predominant in certain countries throughout the world. Although not restricted to Muslims, forced marriages have become incorrectly associated with Islam.

In Islam, both males and females have the right to choose or reject their potential spouse, and a marriage is considered null and void if a woman’s genuine approval is not granted prior to the marriage.

11. “Islam **forces** people to become Muslim”

Although it is a duty on Muslims to convey and share the beautiful message of Islam to others, no one can be compelled to accept Islam.

To accept Islam, a person must sincerely and voluntarily believe and obey God, so, by definition, no one can (or should) be forced to accept Islam.



Consider the following:

- Indonesia has the largest Muslim population yet no battles were fought to bring Islam there.
- There are around 14 million Arab Coptic Christians that have been living in the heart of Arabia for generations.
- Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the western world today.
- Although fighting oppression and promoting justice are valid reasons for waging jihad, forcing people to accept Islam is not one of them.
- Muslims ruled Spain for around 800 years yet never coerced people to convert.

conclusion

Learning about Islam from unqualified sources without verification is dangerous and leads to misunderstandings. Do not be misled into accepting misconceptions and false information about Islam – the belief shared by more than a quarter of mankind.

Does not the guidance for all humanity, the message of Islam, deserve to be carefully pondered over and reflected on?



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women's rights in Islam

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respected

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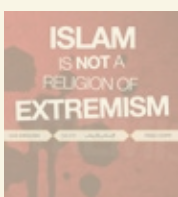
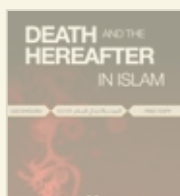
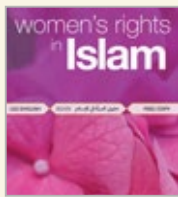
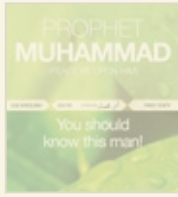
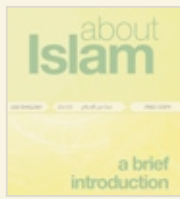
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INTRODUCTION

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.”
Quran 2:228

Over fourteen hundred years ago, Islam gave women rights that women in the West have only recently begun 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 Quran:

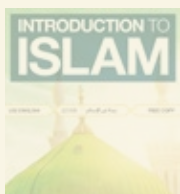
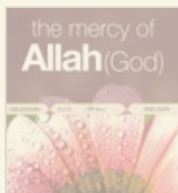
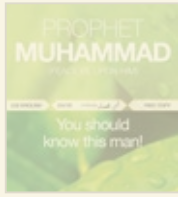
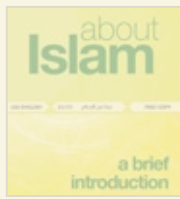
“Allah has promised to the believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in gardens of everlasting bliss.”

Quran 9:72

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

Quran 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

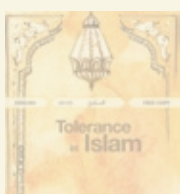
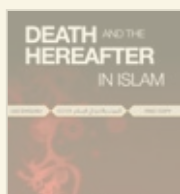
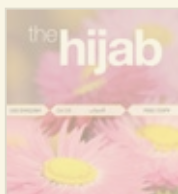
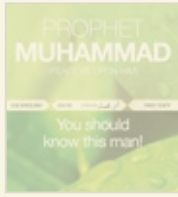
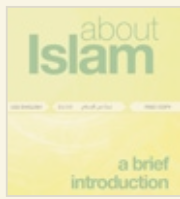
Islam has honoured women by giving them the right to choose a spouse and keep their original family name once married. Additionally, many have the impression that parents force their daughters into marriage. This is a cultural practice, and has no basis in Islam. In fact, it is prohibited.

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.

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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."
Quran 3:36*

*"Does not the One who created, know? And He is the Most Kind, the All Aware."
Quran 67:14*

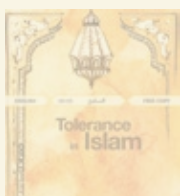
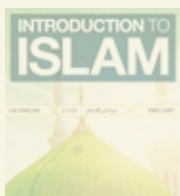
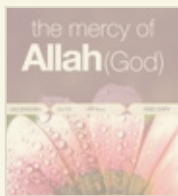
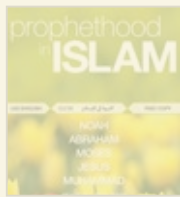
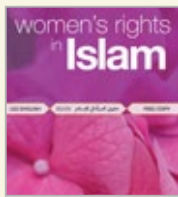
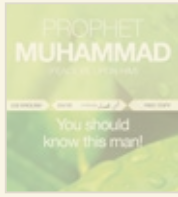
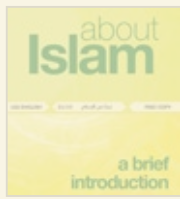
THE FAMILY UNIT

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:

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.

*"They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them."
Quran 2:187*



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.”

Quran 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 Quran:

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

“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.”

Quran 46:15

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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, divorce 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, let alone equal pay for equal work. Islam, however, regards women as precious and valuable, not to be disrespected or disgraced. 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.”

Quran 33:35

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ATHEISM

AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

L02 ENGLISH

(11/19)

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“We (God) will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth.”

Quran 41:53



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This pamphlet introduces the Islamic perspective for believing in God. It explains how God provides signs of His existence – both through His natural creation and through revelation, and clarifies common questions by atheists.

God calls on us to acknowledge Him through His signs and has made it our responsibility to ponder and reflect in order to recognise Him. Some people are receptive to these signs and see God’s work all around them, while others dismiss everything as random and meaningless. God has placed in every person, a natural inclination to believe, but this innate predisposition to believe can either be nurtured or suppressed.

Importantly, God guides people who are *sincere* and *willing* to receive guidance. In other words, those who do not want to believe in God will not be guided. God says, **“God guides to Himself whoever turns to Him.”** Quran 13:27

This requires objectivity and an unbiased attitude to the possibility of God’s existence, which can be quite confronting and humbling for some people, but without this genuine openness and willingness, no amount of information can make someone believe. In fact, God warns us that those who approach His signs from a position of pride and arrogance will only find justification for their disbelief.

It is also important to note that due to the significant differences between Islam and Christianity, many criticisms of Christianity simply do not apply to Islam.

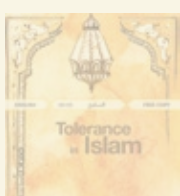
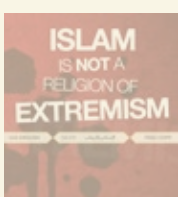
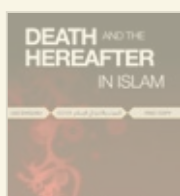
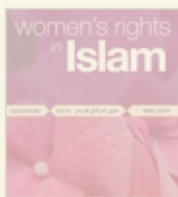
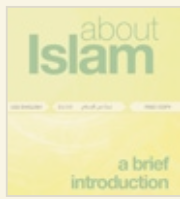
Therefore, we hope that those who are sincere, open minded and genuinely seeking the truth can benefit from this information and that it helps present a new perspective to understanding God.

REASONS TO BELIEVE

The following are three rational reasons for believing in a creator.

1. Beginning of the Universe

The first evidence that points to the existence of a Creator relates to understanding the origin of the universe. Imagine walking in a desert and finding a watch. We know a watch consists of glass, plastic and metal. Glass comes from sand, plastic from oil, and metal extracted from the ground – all these components are found in the desert. Would you believe that the watch 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



“Were they created from nothing, or did they create themselves?”
Quran 52:35

of years the watch came together by random or natural coincidences?

According to modern science, the universe is finite and has a beginning. Where did the universe ultimately come from? Human experience and simple logic tell us that something that has a beginning does not simply come from nothing, nor can something create itself.

We can reason that a higher “being” created the universe. This “being” must be powerful and intelligent as it brought the whole universe into existence and created the ‘laws of science’ which govern it. We can also reason that this “being” is timeless and spaceless, because time, space and matter began at the creation of the universe. All of these attributes make up the basic concept of God, the creator of the universe.

Some may ask, **“Who created God?”** God, the Creator, is different to His creation. Unlike the universe and the rest of creation, God is eternal, has always existed and has no beginning.

2. Perfection of the Universe

The second evidence of a creator is the order and perfect balance of our complex universe. Could a large complex universe form by coincidence, without supervision?

Many features in the universe clearly indicate it to be specially 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 tilt. If these measurements were slightly different to what they currently are, life could not exist.

In the same way that a watch has an intelligent maker to keep accurate time, so too must the earth have an intelligent maker to keep accurate time around the Sun. Could this occur by itself?

When we see the order, the precise laws and systems within ourselves and throughout the universe, is it not rational they have an organiser? This ‘organiser’ is again best explained by the existence of God – the one who brought about this order.

It should be noted that Islam encourages scientific research and reflection. The role of science helps us describe the many observed patterns that God places in His creation and appreciate the extent of His power and wisdom. Advances in scientific discoveries, just like any mechanism or process we find in the natural world such as the water cycle or gravity – provides signs of an organiser and designer, not an argument against God.



3. Revelation from God

The third evidence is the actual revelation that has been sent by God to humankind as a sign of His existence.

One of the main purposes of the book of Islam, the Quran, is to invite people to reflect and appreciate God’s creation as a way of believing in Him. Throughout the Quran, God calls our attention to His marvelous designs and complexities in the universe and within ourselves, which are sufficient to indicate that we are a product of design, purpose and intelligence. For example, God says:

“Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the great ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every kind of moving creature, and His directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth, are signs for a people who use reason.” - Quran 2:164

Moreover, there are clear signs that the Quran is the word of God.

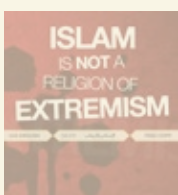
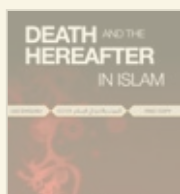
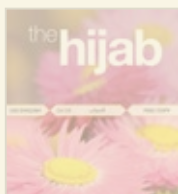
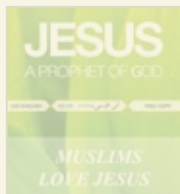
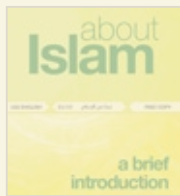
The Quran:

- Is free from errors or contradictions.
- Has been preserved, word-for-word, since its revelation in its original Arabic language, unlike other scriptures.
- Has a simple, pure and universal message, which appeals to Man’s intellect and inherent beliefs about Almighty God.
- Is over 1400 years old with many scientific facts that were unknown to people of that time and have only been discovered recently by scientists. Examples include: water being the origin of all living things (Quran 21:30); the expanding universe (Quran 51:47); and the individual orbits of the sun and moon (Quran 21:33).
- Contains many historical facts that were unknown to the people of that time as well as numerous predictions, which have proven to be correct.
- Was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who was known to be illiterate, yet contains a unique style of language that is universally known as the pinnacle of Arabic eloquence and linguistic beauty.

The Quran is memorised cover-to-cover by millions of people.

The Quran has a deep and moving effect on people.

The most rational explanation for the many unique and miraculous aspects of the Quran is that it can only be from God.



QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD 4

“Why did God create us?”

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, God describes this life as a test. Every person is being tested as to who will choose to acknowledge God and follow His guidance. God says:

“Indeed, We (God) created man ... in order to test him; and we gave him hearing and vision. Indeed, We (God) showed him the way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.” - Quran 76:2-3

For many, the underlying issue is not really about believing in God, but about the *implications* of believing in Him. It would mean being held to account and judged for one's actions, which may be inconvenient for the lives they want to lead. Therefore, the test in this life involves following and humbling ourselves before God in preference to our own desires, pride and ego.

“Why does God need to test us?”

God is not in need of anything - He does not need to create anything and does not need to test anyone. He does not benefit from our belief and is not affected by our disbelief. Rather, it is part of His infinite wisdom that He created us and gave us the opportunity to know Him. God knows the future - the point is, for us to live through and experience our lives and make our own choices.

“Do we really have a choice?”

The fact that God knows our choices does not make it any less *voluntary*. Although God wants people to believe in Him, He does not force anyone. If God willed, He could guide all of humankind, as He has power over everything. But in His Wisdom, He has created us with the ability to choose and made us accountable for our choices. God is not necessarily pleased with everything that He allows to occur.

“Why doesn't God just reveal Himself?”

In God's wisdom, He has chosen to make Himself known through His signs. This is part of the test of this life. He has made it our responsibility to use the abilities He has given us to acknowledge Him. This means that only those who are sincere, humble and reflect deeply will recognise and believe in Him.



“Why is there suffering in the world?”

The fact that different people are tested in different ways through various trials, does not disprove the existence of God nor contradict an all-powerful God. Rather, the good as well as the bad that God permits to occur, constitutes our test on earth. We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we react, which is what He judges us on. This world is volatile and temporary, however, the full justice in the hereafter, which is everlasting, will more than compensate for any injustices or misfortunes in this life.

“Why does God punish people?”

No one can disagree with the concept of punishment, which is necessary for justice. God has created us with the ability to choose how we want to live, and in turn, be accountable.

Those who sincerely strive to obey God will earn God's mercy and enter paradise. But those who are careless about their purpose in life and deny God, have ultimately made their own choice and will be held to account. No one can blame God. God did not create people to punish them – rather, He intends ease and mercy for them. The fact that God knows our choices does not make our actions any less voluntary and does not absolve us from responsibility.

Islam is a practical religion that encourages a balance between hope in God's mercy and fear of His punishment - both of which are required to lead a positive and humble life. God is the Most Merciful but also the Most Just. If there were no day of Judgement, it would contradict the perfect justice of God, and life would be unfair.

CONCLUSION

Are we only here for 80 or so years, and that's it? Or is there more to life? Are we just advanced apes with no ultimate purpose? Are we material beings with only physical needs or do we also have spiritual needs?

For those who are genuine and still undecided about God, our advice is to sincerely ask for the following:

“God, if you exist, please guide me.” You might be surprised by the results.

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science in ISLAM

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العلوم في الإسلام

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“ We (God) shall show them Our signs in the Universe and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth. ”

Quran 41:53



Your Path To Peace..

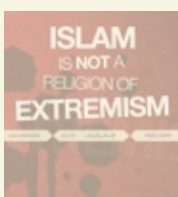
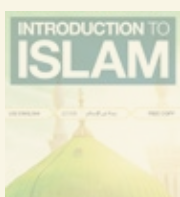
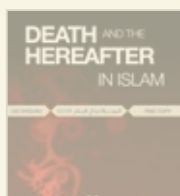
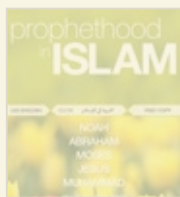
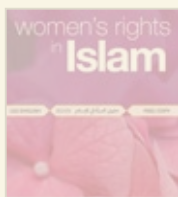
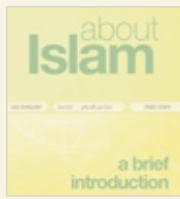
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The Quran, the book of Islam, is the final book of revelation from God to humanity and the last in the line of revelations given to the Prophets.

Although the Quran (revealed over 1400 years ago), is not primarily a book of science, it does contain scientific facts that have only been discovered recently through the advancement of technology and scientific knowledge. Islam encourages reflection and scientific research because understanding the nature of creation enables people to further appreciate their Creator and the extent of His power and wisdom.

The Quran was revealed at a time when Science was primitive; there were no telescopes, microscopes or anything close to today's technology. People believed that the sun orbited the earth and the sky was held up by pillars at the corners of a flat earth. Against this backdrop the Quran was revealed, containing many scientific facts on topics ranging from astronomy to biology, geology to zoology.

Some of the many scientific facts found in the Quran include:

1 Origin of Life

Water is pointed out as the origin of all life. All living things are made of cells and we now know that cells are mostly made of water.

This was discovered only after the invention of the microscope.

In the deserts of Arabia, it would be inconceivable to think that someone would have guessed that all life came from water.

"And We (God) made every living thing from water. Will they not believe?"

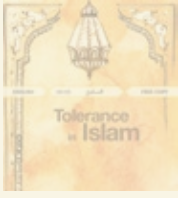
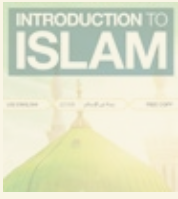
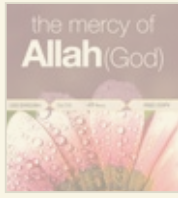
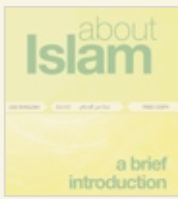
Quran 21:30

2 Human Embryonic Development

God speaks about the stages of man's embryonic development:

"We (God) 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]..." - Quran, 23:12-14

The Arabic word **"alaqah"** has three meanings: a leech, a suspended thing and a blood clot. **"Mudghah"** means a chewed substance. Embryology scientists have observed that the usage of these terms in describing the formation of the embryo is accurate and in conformity with our current scientific understanding of the development process.



Little was known about the staging and classification of human embryos until the twentieth century, which means that the descriptions of the human embryo in the Quran cannot be based on scientific knowledge from the seventh century.

3 Expansion of the Universe

At a time when the science of Astronomy was still primitive, the following verse in the Quran was revealed:

“And the heaven We (God) constructed with strength, and indeed, We (God) are [its] expander.” - Quran 51:47

One of the intended meanings of the above verse is that God is expanding the universe (i.e. heavens). Other meanings are that God provides for, and has power over, the universe - which are also true.

The fact that the universe is expanding (e.g. planets are moving further away from each other) was discovered in the last century. Physicist Stephen Hawking in his book ‘A Brief History of Time’ writes, **“The discovery that the universe is expanding was one of the great intellectual revolutions of the twentieth century.”**

The Quran alludes to the expansion of the universe even before the invention of the telescope!

4 Iron Sent Down

Iron is not natural to earth, as it came to this planet from outer space. Scientists have found that billions of years ago, the earth was struck by meteorites which were carrying iron from distant stars which had exploded.

“We sent down iron with its great inherent strength and its many benefits for humankind.”
Quran 57:25

God uses the words ‘sent down’. The fact that iron was sent down to earth from outer space is something which could not be known by the primitive science of the seventh century.

5 Sky’s Protection

The sky plays a crucial role in protecting the earth and its inhabitants from the lethal rays of the sun, as well as the freezing cold of space.

God asks us to consider the sky in the following verse:

“We (God) made the sky a protective ceiling. And yet they are turning away from Our signs!” - Quran 21:32

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The Quran points to the sky's protection as a sign of God, protective properties which were discovered by scientific research conducted in the twentieth century.

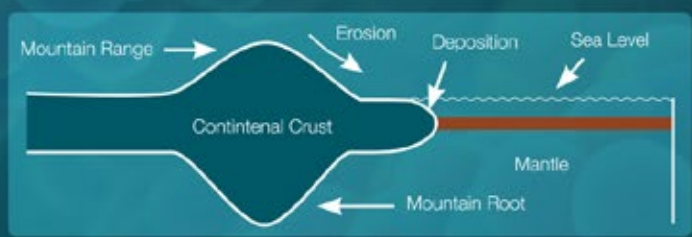
6 Mountains

God draws our attention to an important characteristic of mountains:

"Did We not make the earth a resting place, and the mountains as stakes?"
Quran 78:6-7

The Quran accurately describes the deep roots of mountains by using the word "**stakes**". Mount Everest, for example, has an approximate height of 9km above ground, while its root is deeper than 125km!

The fact that mountains have deep 'stake'-like roots was not known until after the development of the theory of plate tectonics in the beginning of the twentieth century. God also says in the Quran (16:15), that the mountains have a role in stabilising the earth "... so that it would not shake," which has just begun to be understood by scientists.



7 Sun's Orbit

In 1512, astronomer Nicholas Copernicus put forward his theory that the Sun is motionless at the centre of the solar system and the planets revolve around it. This belief was widespread amongst astronomers until the twentieth century. It is now a well established fact that the Sun is not stationary but is moving in an orbit around the centre of our Milky Way galaxy.

"It is He who created night and day, the Sun and the Moon, each floating in its orbit."
Quran 21:33

8 Internal Waves in the Ocean

It was commonly thought that waves only occur on the surface of the ocean. However, oceanographers have discovered that there are internal waves that take place below the surface which are invisible to the human eye and can only be detected by specialised equipment.

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The Quran mentions:

"... a deep ocean which is covered by waves, above which are waves, above which are clouds, layers of darkness, one upon the other..." - Quran 24:40

This description is amazing because 1400 years ago there was no specialist equipment to discover the internal waves deep inside the oceans.

9 Lying & Movement

*"No Indeed! If he does not stop, We will seize him by the forehead; his lying, sinful forehead."
Quran 96:15-16*

There was a cruel oppressive tribal leader who lived during the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). God revealed a verse to warn him:

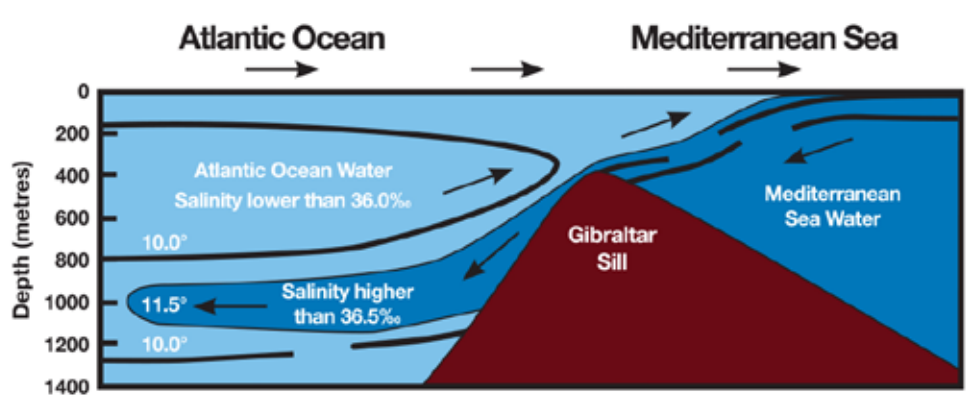
God does not call this person a liar, but calls his forehead (the front part of the brain) 'lying' and 'sinful', and warns him to stop. Numerous studies have found that the front part of our brain (frontal lobe) is responsible for both lying and voluntary movement, and hence sin. These functions were discovered with medical imaging equipment which was developed in the twentieth century.

10 Two Seas that do not Mix

Regarding the seas, our Creator says:

*"He has let loose the two seas, converging together, with a barrier between them which they do not break through."
Quran 55:19-20*

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. This has only very recently been discovered by oceanographers.





Couldn't Muhammad have Authored the Quran?

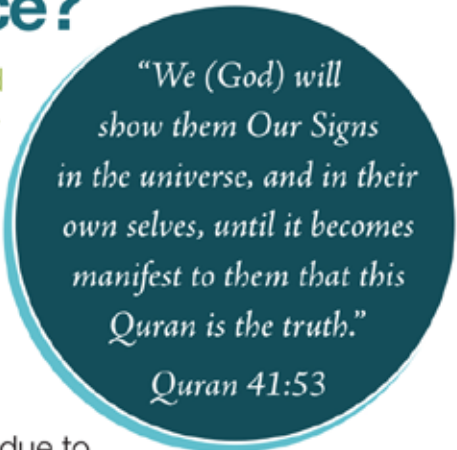
The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known in history to be illiterate; he could not read nor write and was not educated in any field that could account for the scientific accuracies in the Quran.

Some may claim that he copied it from learned people or scientists of his time. If it was copied, we would have expected to see all the incorrect scientific assumptions of the time also being copied. Rather, we find that the Quran does not contain any errors whatsoever - be they scientific or otherwise.

Some people may also claim that the Quran was changed as new scientific facts were discovered. This cannot be the case because it is a historically documented fact that the Quran is preserved in its original language - which is a miracle in itself!

Just a Coincidence?

While this pamphlet has only focused on scientific miracles, there are many more types of miracles mentioned in the Quran: historical miracles; prophecies that have come true; linguistic and literary styles that cannot be matched; not to mention the moving effect it has on people. All these miracles cannot be due to



coincidence. They clearly indicate that the Quran is from God, the Creator of all these laws of science. He is the one and same God who sent all the Prophets with the same message - to worship the one God only and to follow the teachings of His Messenger.

The Quran is a book of guidance that demonstrates that God did not create humans to simply wander aimlessly. Rather, it teaches us that we have a meaningful and higher purpose in life - to acknowledge God's complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness, and obey Him.

It is up to each person to use their God-given intellect and reasoning abilities to contemplate and recognise God's signs - the Quran being the most important sign. Read and discover the beauty and truth of the Quran, so that you may attain success!

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prophethood in ISLAM

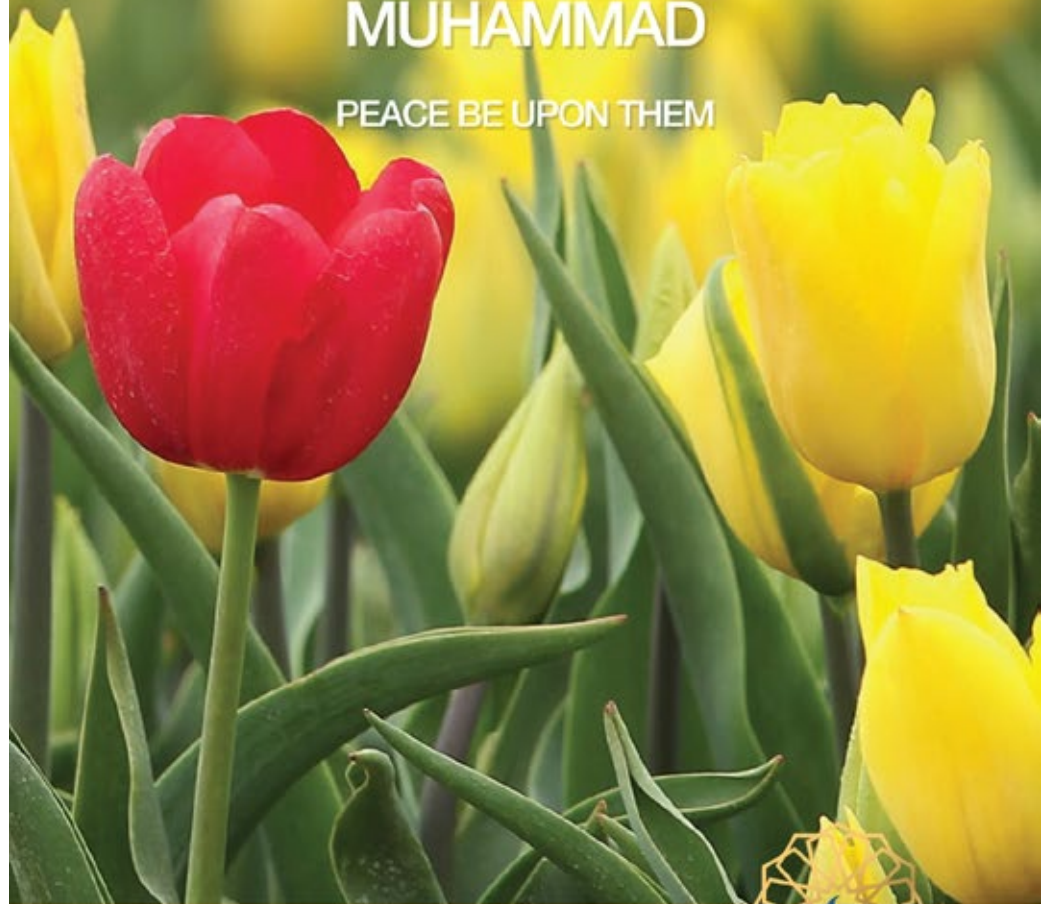
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ABRAHAM
MOSES
JESUS
MUHAMMAD
PEACE BE UPON THEM



Your Path To Peace..

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Allah (God), the Creator of the universe and everything in it, created humans for a noble purpose: to worship Him alone and lead a virtuous life based on His teachings and guidance. However, one cannot fulfil this purpose without receiving clear guidelines from Allah.

Allah, the Most Merciful and Just, did not leave us to wander the Earth aimlessly. In order to inform us of our purpose, Allah appointed certain individuals to communicate and demonstrate His message to all of mankind. These individuals are known as Prophets, which include **Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus** and **Muhammad** – may peace be upon them all.

the characteristics of prophets

All Prophets have common characteristics which make them exceptional human beings.

Prophets receive revelation

The main difference between an ordinary human being and a Prophet is that a Prophet receives revelation from Allah.

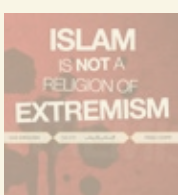
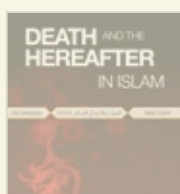
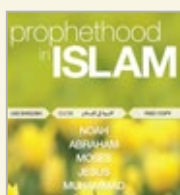
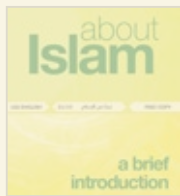
Prophets have noble character

Prophets never sought personal benefits such as wealth, high status or power – rather, they only sought the approval of God.

Prophets were the best examples amongst their people in character and righteousness. They lived in obedience to God, with excellent morals and were always truthful in speech and conduct. For this reason, Muslims reject totally the false attribution of major sins to the Prophets, as appears in some scriptures of other religions.

Prophets perform miracles

Many Prophets performed miracles, usually in a field which their people excelled. For example, the people of **Moses** (peace be upon him) excelled in magic; therefore, Moses (peace be upon him) was able to perform miraculous acts which even magicians could not perform. The people of **Jesus** (peace be upon him) excelled in matters of medicine; therefore, Jesus (peace be upon him) was able to perform acts of healing beyond the skill of his own people. The people of **Muhammad** (peace be upon him) excelled in poetry; therefore, Muhammad (peace be upon him) delivered the Quran, containing such eloquent words which no poet could ever compete with. In addition, many Prophets conveyed truthful prophecies of future events. Such miracles were performed only with the permission and assistance of Allah, proving that they were human, and not divine.



Prophets are **not** divine

While Prophets are chosen by Allah Almighty, they are in no way divine and should not be worshipped. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was commanded to say, **“I am only a man like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is One God.”** Quran 18:110

It is clear even from the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, that the Prophets were not divine, and would worship and prostrate to the One True God.

“And he [Jesus] went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed...” Matthew 26:39

“And they [Moses and Aaron] fell upon their faces...” Numbers 16:22

“And Abram [i.e. Abraham] fell on his face: and God talked with him...” Genesis 17:3

Prophets have **necessary** qualities

Allah gave all Prophets certain characteristics in order for them to successfully fulfil their mission, such as persistence, courage, leadership, patience and wisdom.

Some examples include:

- The persistence of **Noah** (peace be upon him) in calling his people to Allah, even though very few accepted.
- The courage of **Abraham** (peace be upon him) to single-handedly confront his entire community regarding their false beliefs, while he was still very young.
- The leadership of **Moses** (peace be upon him) in directing the escape of his people from the most oppressive tyrant of his time - Pharaoh.
- The patience of **Jesus** (peace be upon him) in enduring the hardships and persecution imposed upon him by his people.
- The wisdom of **Muhammad** (peace be upon him) in uniting the many rival tribes of Arabia, who had a long history of conflict, into one peaceful community.

the **message** of the **prophets**

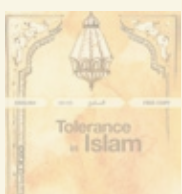
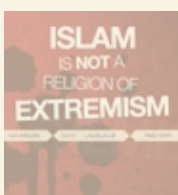
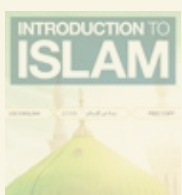
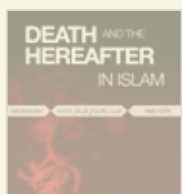
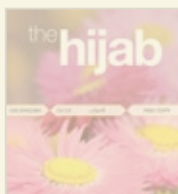
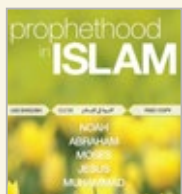
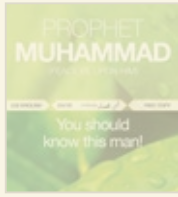
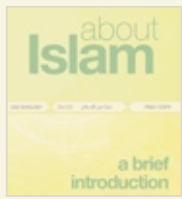
Since all Prophets were sent by the One True God, they all conveyed the same message and had the same mission - to remind and educate their people of the purpose of life.

Their message was to:

- Clarify the true concept of God and reject false beliefs

“And certainly We sent to every nation a Messenger (saying): ‘Worship Allah and avoid false gods.’”

Quran 16:36



- Teach the true purpose of life
- Demonstrate how Allah should be worshipped
- Convey Allah's definition of righteous and sinful conduct, and advise people accordingly
- Describe the rewards for obedience (Heaven) and warn of the punishment for disobedience (Hell)
- Explain commonly misunderstood issues such as the soul, angels and spirits, the afterlife and fate

“And We sent not a Messenger except with the language of his people, in order that he might make (the Message) clear for them...”

Quran 14:4

The main focus of all the Prophets was to clarify the concept of God: that He has no partners or equals, and that all worship should be directed exclusively toward Him. In the Quran, there are numerous examples of Prophets proclaiming this message:

Noah (peace be upon him) said [Quran 7:59],

*“O my people! Worship Allah!
You have no other gods besides Him.”*

Abraham (peace be upon him) said [Quran 21:66],

“Do you worship besides Allah, things that can neither bring you benefit nor cause you harm?”

Moses (peace be upon him) said [Quran 7:140],

“What! Shall I seek for you a god other than Allah even though He has made you excel (all) created things?”

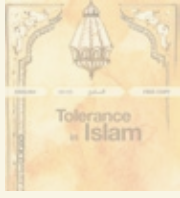
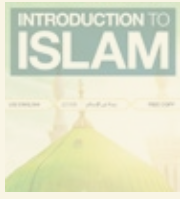
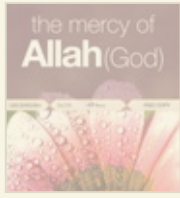
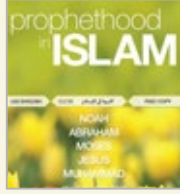
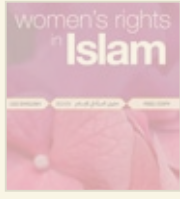
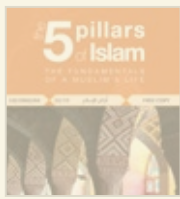
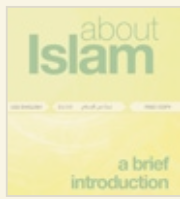
Jesus (peace be upon him) said [Quran 3:51],

*“Indeed Allah is my Lord and your Lord:
so worship Him (alone): this is the Straight Way.”*

Muhammad (peace be upon him) said [Quran 18:110],

*“It has been revealed to me that your God is One God.
So whoever expects to meet his Lord then let him do good deeds
and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord.”*

This message was consistent throughout the generations, and highlights the importance of having the correct belief in God.



every nation was sent a prophet



Muslims believe that thousands of Prophets were sent periodically by Allah, at least one to every nation, as a mercy to mankind for their guidance. In certain circumstances, the message of the Prophets was lost, corrupted, forgotten, neglected, or denied by the people. These were some of the reasons why a new Prophet would be sent to re-convey Allah's message.

Muslims believe in and respect every Prophet sent by God. Muslims also believe in all of the divine books which were revealed to the Prophets, mindful of the fact that none of these books exist today in their original form, aside from the Quran. **"It is He (Allah) Who has sent down the Book (the Quran) to you (Muhammad) with truth, confirming what came before it. And He sent down the Torah and the Gospel."** Quran 3:3

why doesn't everyone receive direct revelation?

Allah created life and gave humans free will and intellect, as a test to see who will willingly follow His path and who will deviate. If every person received direct revelation, life would not be a true test of faith. The real test of one's faith is in using one's intellect and reason to contemplate and recognise God's signs, rather than being spoken to directly by God, which would not require any effort, and would render belief meaningless.

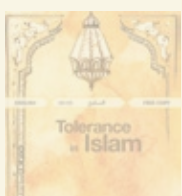
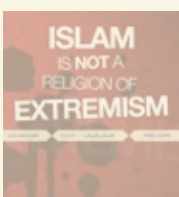
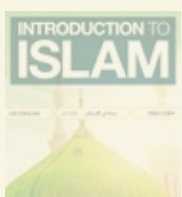
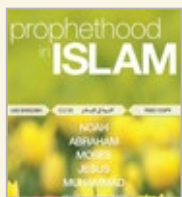
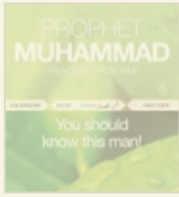
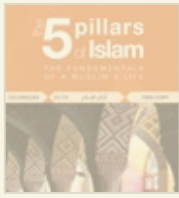
Although Prophets received direct revelation, this did not exempt them from life's tests, as Prophethood brings with it many difficulties and trials.

the final prophet



Prophets were sent to specific groups of people, and over time, the messages with which they came were lost or corrupted. However, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was not sent to a specific people, but to mankind as a whole, and his message has been preserved both in the form of the Quran and the Sunnah.

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- The Quran is the spoken word of Allah, and is free of any corruption, errors or contradictions. It is a book of **“guidance for mankind... and the distinction (between right and wrong).”**

Quran 2:185

- The Sunnah is a collection of the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as recorded by his companions and their students. The fact that there are thousands of these recorded and rigorously authenticated makes it very easy for anyone to follow Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) correctly.

The message of Prophet Muhammad is in complete harmony with the teachings of the previous Prophets, and reaffirms their message.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet for all mankind from his time up until the end of time, including current and future generations. He was a perfect example of an honest, just, merciful, compassionate, truthful and brave human being. He, like other Prophets before him, did not have any evil characteristics and strove solely for the sake of Allah.

conclusion

Prophets were sent as a mercy by Allah, to convey His message and to teach people how to live a righteous life. They have the best of characteristics and are to be followed and obeyed.

Following a Prophet is obedience to God and rejecting a Prophet is disobedience to God. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the last of the Prophets, so God's guidance was complete with his coming, and our salvation is complete with the obedience to God and His Final Prophet.

“Indeed in the Messenger of Allah [Prophet Muhammad] you have an excellent example to follow for whoever hopes in (the meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.”
Quran 33:21

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the hijab

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(14/19)

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devotion to **God**,
modesty, dignity



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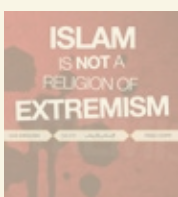
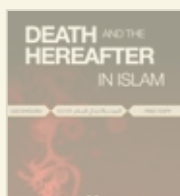
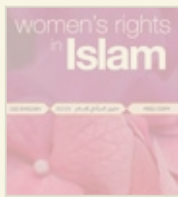
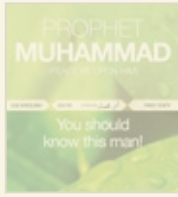
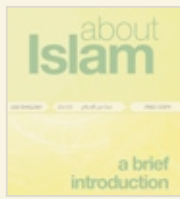
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تصريح رقم
(2017/139)

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department



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what is the hijab?

The word Hijab comes from the Arabic root word 'Hajaba', which means to conceal or cover. In an Islamic context, Hijab refers to the dress code required for Muslim females who have reached puberty. Hijab is the requirement of covering or veiling the entire body with the exception of the face and hands. Some also choose to cover their face and hands and this is referred to as Burqa or Niqab. The Hijab is not required in situations where there are only females and certain male relatives present. However, hijab is not just about outer appearances; it is also about noble speech, modesty, and dignified conduct. These righteous manners are also required of men.

Muslim males are also required to dress in loose and unrevealing clothing in order to maintain their modesty and dignity.

the hijab is obedience

Although there are many benefits of Hijab, it is first and foremost a commandment from God. Therefore, wearing it is an act of faith and obedience to The Creator, as mentioned in the Quran:

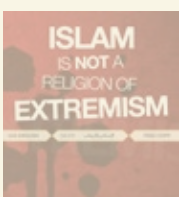
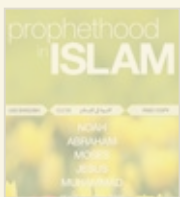
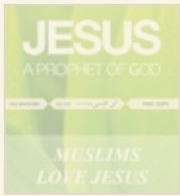
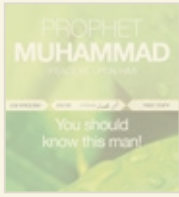
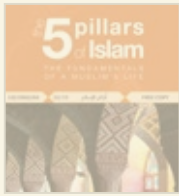
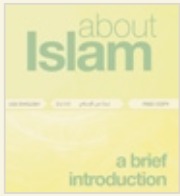
“Tell the believing women to draw their outer garments around them (when they go out or are among men).” Quran 33:59

The Hijab in no way suggests that women are inferior to men.

God, the All-Wise, knows what is best for His creation, and has therefore provided guidance in order to benefit humankind. The wearing of hijab, just like any other act of obedience to The Creator, brings one closer to their Lord and helps bring a sense of satisfaction and contentment to the person wearing it.

the hijab is modesty

Islam promotes modesty and decency and seeks to minimise immorality within society. The Hijab, amongst other things, helps attain this goal.



“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: That is purer for them; and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty. They should not display their beauty except that which is apparent; that they should draw their veils over their chests and not display their beauty...” Quran 24:30-31

Note that in the above verses, it is men who are addressed first in regards to lowering their gaze and guarding their modesty. This counters the claim that all responsibility for such modesty is shouldered by women.

While Islam discourages public displays of immodest dress and sexual behavior, being a practical religion, Islam encourages love, affection and intimacy between married couples in private.

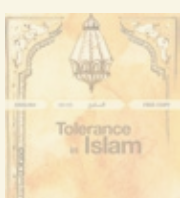
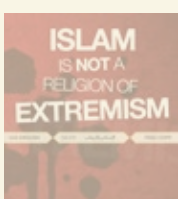
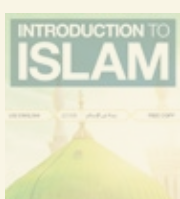
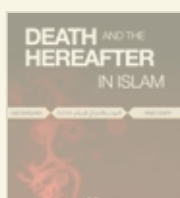
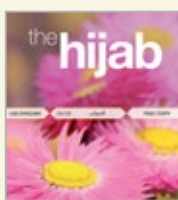
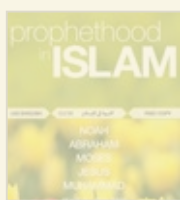
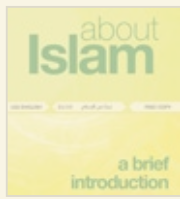
the hijab is protection

The wisdom behind the Hijab is to minimise sexual enticement and moral degradation in society as much as possible for both men and women. The Hijab helps protect men, women and society by creating stability in both families and communities in a number of ways.

- Shields from unwanted advances.
- Shields women from perverted looks and superficial scrutiny.
- May help reduce the likelihood of sexual assaults against women.
- Shields from sexual exploitation of women based on appearance.
- Shields from temptations and harmful desires

the hijab is dignity

The Hijab promotes a woman's femininity rather than suppressing it, and grants women dignity and self-respect for who they are, as opposed to being judged by superficial standards, such as appearance. This grants women the power to shape their own dignity via more meaningful standards, such as righteousness, knowledge and societal contribution, rather than having a consumer society dictate their worth through material means, such as how they look or how much money they earn.



In the sight of God, men and women do not have to be identical in order to be equal, and this is reflected in the different roles and responsibilities which apply to each.

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Tawakkul Karman, 'The mother of Yemen's revolution,' when asked about her Hijab by journalists and how it is not proportionate with her level of intellect and education, replied:

"Man in early times was almost naked, and as his intellect evolved he started wearing clothes. What I am today and what I'm wearing

represents the highest level of thought and civilization that man has achieved, and is not regressive. It's the removal of clothes again that is a regression back to the ancient times."

the hijab is respect

In a number of societies today, many women are taught from early childhood that their worth is proportional to their attractiveness. They are compelled to follow unrealistic and demeaning standards of beauty in order to satisfy unreasonable peer pressure and community expectations. In such a superficial environment, where so much emphasis is placed on external beauty, the internal beauty of the individual counts for very little.

Islam however, teaches that a woman is to be respected according to her virtuous character and actions rather than by her looks or physical features, of which she has little or no control. She does not have to use her body and charms to gain recognition or acceptance in society, as the Hijab directs self-worth away from appearance and onto qualities such as piety, virtue, modesty and intellect – attributes which are more equally accessible to all.

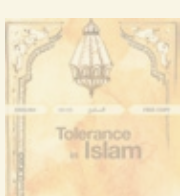
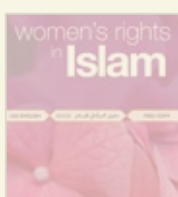
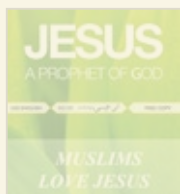
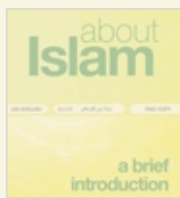
Every woman who wears a hijab or burqa is a unique individual, and it is unfair and inaccurate to make a sweeping judgement about all such women based on one item of clothing they have in common.

the hijab in the bible

The Hijab is not something new. Muslim women follow the example of righteous women in the past such as Mary, the mother of Jesus. Some of the evidence from the bible includes the following two verses.

"And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head." 1 Corinthians 11:3-6.

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"I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God."

1 Timothy 2:9-10

the hijab is **confidence**

"I don't wear it because I am oppressed, I wear it because I am empowered."

*Joumana, 23,
Melbourne*

The Hijab enables women to have confidence in themselves as human beings. It increases the self-esteem of women by allowing them to focus on what really matters in life. The obsession with physical appearance can have dangerous and unhealthy consequences, as some women go to harmful lengths in order to feel accepted by an increasingly demanding society. The Hijab helps prevent such mental and physical harms associated with a lack of confidence, by limiting self-consciousness based on appearance.

the hijab is **NOT...**

- It does NOT hinder contribution to society.
- It is NOT a symbol of oppression.
- It is NOT required in places where there are only females and close male relatives.
- It is NOT a sign of female inferiority to men.
- It is NOT a means to restrict a woman's freedom to express her views and opinions.
- It is NOT a means to restrict women from pursuing an education or a suitable career.
- It is NOT a portable prison.
- It is NOT an act of defiance, confrontation or protest against non-Muslims.
- It is NOT something new – it has been practiced by many righteous women historically.
- It is NOT against community values - community values necessitate that people should not be judged by what they wear, nor discriminated against or mistreated, based on their choice of clothing or appearance.
- It is NOT worn with the intention of being intimidating or anti-social.



what muslim women say about the hijab

“I wore it at the age of 17 and now regret not wearing it earlier.”

- **Faten, 27, Melbourne**

“It’s not about being ready enough to wear it, it’s about being fortunate enough to wear it.” - **Madina, 22, Melbourne**

“Wearing Hijab represents my freedom, my choice, not my oppression by the wants of men and media.” - **Nusaybah, 45, Melbourne**

“I like wearing the hijab because I’m doing it for the sake of Allah, and every time I think about that, it puts a smile on my face.”

- **Aisha, 13, Melbourne**

“It allows me to realise my goals by having a career and going to school without worrying about the prying eyes of men. It forces people not to judge me based on my appearance, but on my thoughts and character.” - **Ms. Flavia, 22, USA**

“My body is my business, and I shouldn’t have to defend what I wear to anyone. It is part of my religion, and the fact that I choose to wear it does not make me any less human.”

- **Ms. Yasmin, 21, Australia**

conclusion

The Hijab is an act of obedience between the Muslim woman and her Creator. It is a source of empowerment and dignity, and millions of Muslim women around the world choose to wear the Hijab as part of their faith. Far from being oppressive, the Hijab is an act of liberation, purity and most importantly, belief. Respect for women is an important aspect of Islamic teachings, and this is illustrated via the Hijab.

True equality will occur when women do not need to display themselves to be valued nor defend their decision to keep their bodies to themselves.

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DEATH AND THE HEREAFTER IN ISLAM

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“ Every soul shall taste death. ”
Quran 29:57



Your Path To Peace..

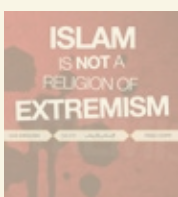
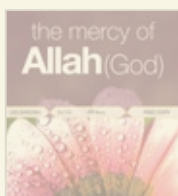
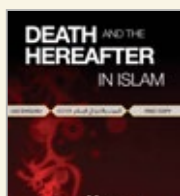
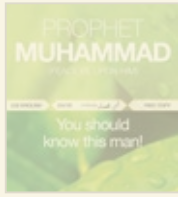
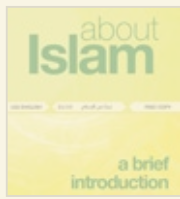
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death is near

Death is the reality from which none can escape. It draws nearer every day; every hour; every minute. According to the CIA's The World Factbook 2007, almost two people die each second. That's a staggering 57.9 million people each year! Every single being will reach this inescapable fate, regardless of their age, health, background, social status or piety.

Where are the past kings, the billionaires and the powerful? Where are the once beautiful, the famous, and the intellectual elite?

"Wheresoever you may be, death will overtake you even if you are in fortresses built up strong and high!"

Quran 4:78

the reality of death

Death is not a disaster, but simply a passing from this world onto the next. It should make us reflect and ponder about the purpose of life, and what will become of us after death.

Allah (God) has informed us in the Quran that He has created us with the purpose of worshipping Him alone and that He made this life a test to see who will fulfil that purpose:

"And I did not create the Jinn and mankind except to worship Me."

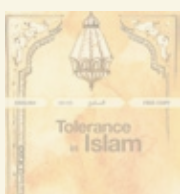
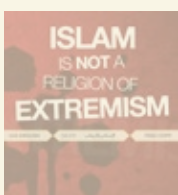
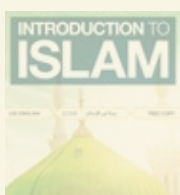
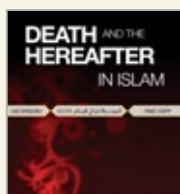
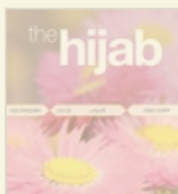
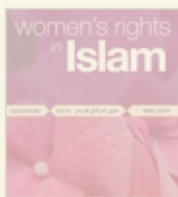
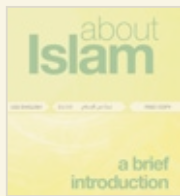
Quran 51:56

God has also informed us the purpose behind the creation of death and life:

"Allah is He who created death and life to test you as to which of you is best in deed."

Quran 67:2

One does not prepare for death by pre-paying funeral services or selecting a coffin in advance. It is about fulfilling one's purpose in life – to worship Allah alone, to live according to His commandments, and perform good deeds. The concept of worship in Islam is all encompassing and is not merely restricted to praying. In fact, any action that is pleasing to Allah is considered an act of worship, and a person will be rewarded for it.



the moment of death

“Let every person consider what they have sent ahead for tomorrow.”
Quran 59:18

Every day we see examples of death. We perceive a peaceful death as one with neither pain nor violence. However, this is not necessarily the case. When a person dies, the soul leaves the body, and so the physical appearance of the body may not reflect the situation of the soul. The peacefulness or unease of the soul will be a direct result of how well a person fulfilled their purpose in this life, and has little to do with the cause of death.

Consider an example of two people who have a one-way ticket to a destination they have never been to before. The first person takes the time to learn about the language, culture and practices relating to the destination. He acquires the right currency and vaccinations, and when it comes time to travel, he arrives without any surprises. He is safe and content, because he has taken the time to prepare.

In contrast, the second person is careless in his preparations and simply lives for the moment until the time comes to depart. He arrives at the unknown destination scared and confused. His unpreparedness causes him to end up with a dreadful fate, as all of the things he has brought with him were of no use.

Describing such a heedless person, Allah says in the Quran:

*“When death comes to one of them, he says, ‘My Lord, send me back! So that I can do good in the things I neglected.’
By no means! It is a mere word that he speaks.”*

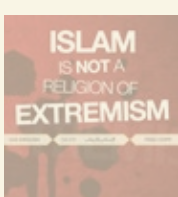
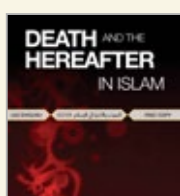
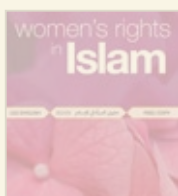
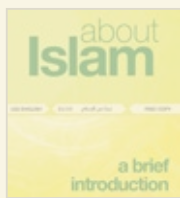
Quran 23:99-100

Also consider the response of those people consigned to hell, when they are questioned regarding what put them there:

“They will say, ‘We were not of those who prayed, nor did we feed the poor. And we used to enter into vain discourse with those who engaged in it, and we used to deny the Day of Recompense (the Day of Judgement) until there came to us the death that is certain.’”

Quran 74:43-47

We all have an appointed time with death, and we will all travel to this unfamiliar destination. Ask yourself - have you prepared for it?



the purpose of life

Life is a test which ends in death, but it does not mark the end of one's existence. Once death arrives, the opportunity to do good ceases. It will be too late to repent and our fate will be determined solely by our beliefs and deeds that we do in our current life. Man's life is divided into two parts: a brief stay in this world, and an eternal life in the next. Any sane mind will conclude that eternal bliss is far more beneficial than short lived pleasures on Earth.

Allah created mankind and made us responsible for our actions by granting us freedom of choice, and intelligence to discern right and wrong. If there were no afterlife in which the good were rewarded and the bad punished, that would contradict the perfect justice of Allah.

Hence it is an absolute demand of justice that there be a Day of Judgement on which every soul is brought to account.

"Shall We then treat the People of Faith like the People of Sin? What is the matter with you? How do you judge?"

Quran 68:35-36

the day of judgement

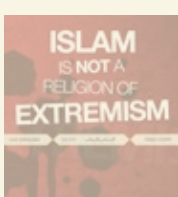
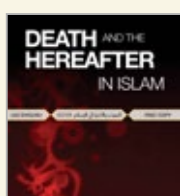
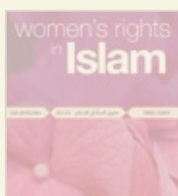
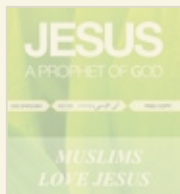
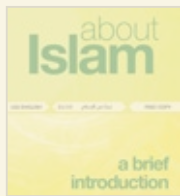
Everyone's deeds in this life are meticulously recorded and preserved, as Allah says:

"And the Book (of Deeds) will be placed open, and you will see the sinful in great terror because of what is recorded therein. They will say, 'Ah! Woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great, but takes account thereof!' They will find all that they did placed before them. And your Lord does injustice to no one." - Quran 18:49

"Death, from which you are running away from, will certainly catch up with you. Then you will be returned to the Knower of the Unseen and the Visible (i.e. Allah) and He will inform you about what you did."

Quran 62:8

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We will be amazed by the accuracy of such a record of all our actions, as we will be reminded of matters long forgotten. Allah says,

“Allah has kept account of it, while they have forgotten it.”

Quran 58:6

Thinking deeply on this should make us ashamed of committing any sin while knowing that it will be recorded against us and exposed on the Day of Judgement in front of Allah.

For those who doubt Allah's abilities to resurrect and judge them, Allah quotes the disbelievers as saying:

“Who will give life to these bones when they have rotted away and became dust?’ Say (O Muhammad), ‘He will give life to them Who created them for the first time! And He is the All-Knower of every creation!’”

Quran 36:78-79

paradise and hell

Those who believe in Allah as the only God worthy of being worshipped, and perform good deeds, will be rewarded with Paradise.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) narrated that Allah said:

“I have prepared for My righteous slaves such excellent things as no eye has ever seen, nor an ear has ever heard, nor a human heart can ever think of.”

This is in sharp contrast to the people who deny the Oneness of Allah, who will be told:

“This is the Hell which you were promised! Burn therein this day, for that which you used to disbelieve.”

Quran 36:63-64



“Verily, the dwellers of the Paradise, that Day, will be busy in joyful things. They and their wives will be in pleasant shade, reclining on thrones. They will have therein fruits (of all kinds) and all that they ask for.”

Quran 36:55-57



For the disbelievers is the worst of punishments:

“Indeed, Hell has been lying in wait for the transgressors, a place of return, in which they will remain for ages [unending]. They will not taste therein any coolness or drink except scalding water and dirty wound discharges - an appropriate recompense [according to their evil acts]! Indeed, they were not expecting an account, and denied our verses with emphatic denial. But all things We have recorded in a Book. ‘So taste the penalty, and never will We (God) increase you except in torment.’”

Quran 78:21-30

conclusion

“O man! What has deceived you concerning your Lord, the Most Generous? Who created you, fashioned you perfectly, and gave you due proportion. In whatever form He willed, He put you together. No! But you deny the Recompense (reward for good deeds and punishment for evil deeds on the Day of Judgement).”

Quran 82:6-9

Death is inevitable. Our purpose in life is to worship Allah alone, perform acts of righteousness and to avoid all that is forbidden. Our fate is being decided on the basis of our present actions, so we can either make use of our opportunities on Earth to ensure an eternal place for ourselves in Paradise, or we can waste them and condemn ourselves to eternal punishment in Hell.



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the mercy of Allah (God)

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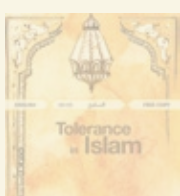
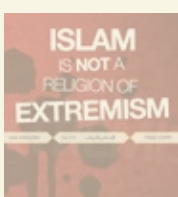
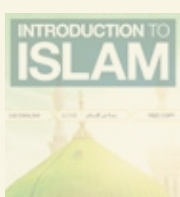
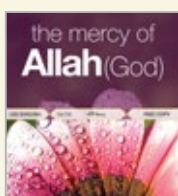
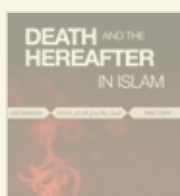
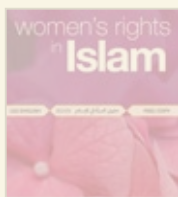
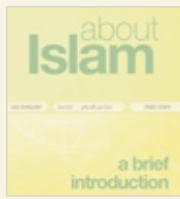
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تصريح رقم
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"Limitless is your Lord in His mercy..."

Qur'an 6:147

God Almighty is full of love and kindness to His creation. All blessings and goodness in this world and the next are clear proofs of His Mercy. Indeed, Islam teaches that God is more merciful toward us than our own mothers. How can it be otherwise, when some of God's names and attributes include:

- The Acceptor of Repentance;
- The Compassionate;
- The Loving;
- The Forbearing One;
- The Most Gracious;
- The Most Merciful;
- The Source of Goodness;
- The Most Generous;
- The Bestower

These names all indicate that God is characterised by mercy, goodness and generosity. They testify to the vastness and perfection of His Mercy, which He blesses all of His creation. This same creation is addressed by God, when He says, "O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as the earth."

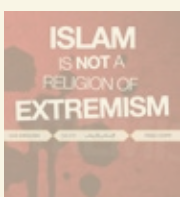
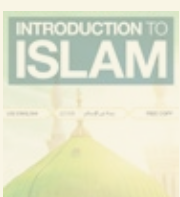
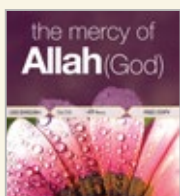
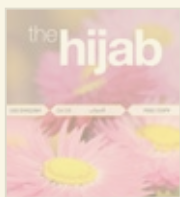
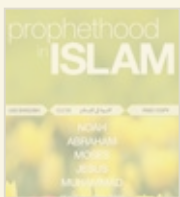
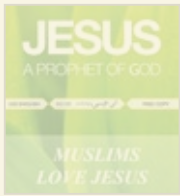
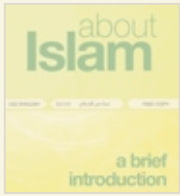
examples of **ALLAH's MERCY** & blessings

"Then which of the Blessings of your Lord will you deny?"

Qur'an 55:13

Throughout life, people continually receive Allah's blessings, be it good health, sight, hearing, nourishment, clean air, children, wealth and countless others. Some use their God-given gifts of intelligence and reasoning to acknowledge these blessings, grasp the purpose of their existence, and thereby submit themselves

to Allah. Others, however, do not appreciate the Mercy of Allah toward their own selves, even though He feeds and sustains them despite their disobedience toward Him. They are given mobility, enjoyment, freedom of thought and action, despite



their outright denial of Him. Their very existence would not be, were it not for the Mercy of Allah.

Ultimately, everyone has the free will to acknowledge their blessings, use them in a manner ordained by Allah (the Lord of mankind) and worship Him alone. Below, we have outlined a glimpse of such blessings, because **“... if you were to try and count the favours of Allah, you could not enumerate them. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.”** Qur'an 16:18

Guidance Through Divine Scriptures & Prophets

“It is He Who has sent down the Book (the Qur'an) to you (Muhammad) with truth, confirming what came before it. And He sent down the Taurah and the Injeel (the original revelations revealed to Prophets Moses and Jesus respectively).”

Qur'an 3:3

From the beginning of creation, man was not left to face the struggles of life alone. Due to God's Mercy, man received revelation through Prophets, who conveyed and taught it to their people to guide and protect them. The most perfect and merciful of revelations was the Qur'an and the last of the prophets was Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The Qur'an – the final revelation – superseded and abrogated previous revelations, and is the ultimate mercy and guidance for mankind. Just as God sent Messengers in the past, He also sent mankind a living, perfect and practical example of how the Qur'an's teachings of mercy and justice should be practically applied in our daily lives. This example was Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) - a mercy to mankind.

“And We (God) have not sent you (Muhammad) except as a mercy for mankind.”

Qur'an 21:107

Following are just some of the Prophet's sayings which are indicative of his mercy, kindness, tolerance and beautiful teachings:

- **“Kindness is not found in anything except that it adds to its beauty, and is not withdrawn from anything except that it makes it deficient.”**

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- *“The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character.”*
- *“He is not a perfect Muslim who eats his fill while his neighbour goes hungry.”*
- *“Allah will not show mercy to him who does not show mercy to others.”*

How desperately do we, as a society, and in these times, need such beautiful advice?

Mercy Towards The Creation

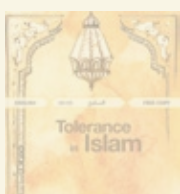
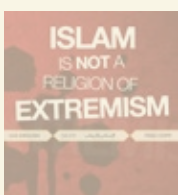
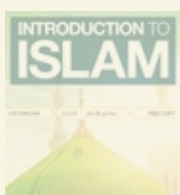
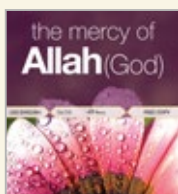
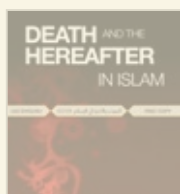
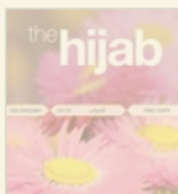
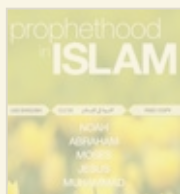
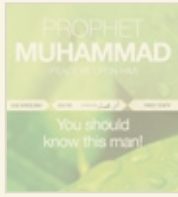
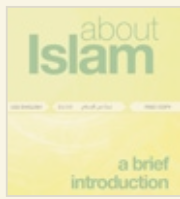
The creation of human beings and all their faculties is a great mercy in itself. The fact that we can get out of bed, work, eat, play and sleep should make us grateful. **“And out of His Mercy He made for you the night and the day that you may rest therein and [by day] seek from His Bounty and [that] perhaps you will be grateful.”** Qur’an 28:73

A spouse is one of the greatest of mercies, a means to tranquillity and affection. **“And of His signs is that He created for you, from yourselves, mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.”** Qur’an 30:21

Another mercy is the fact that He created us sinless and will not hold us to account until the age of maturity and decision making. This is in stark contrast to the “Original Sin” concept in Christianity.

Forgiveness of sins is another example of Allah’s Mercy, as Allah knows we are imperfect and commit mistakes. The fact that believers commit sins does not mean that we should lose hope of Allah’s Mercy or that we have exhausted Allah’s Forgiveness. **“O My servants who have transgressed against their souls! Do not despair of the Mercy of God: for God forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”** Qur’an 39:53

Even animals are not exempt from Allah’s Mercy. They have faculties of hearing and sight, are provided with sustenance and offspring, and are granted many other blessings.



Allah's Mercy sent to earth, **"...His creatures are merciful to each other, so that even the mare lifts up its hoof away from its baby animal, lest it should trample on it."** The Merciful Creator ensures that every creation is looked after - from the fish in the depths of the ocean, to the insects in the earth, and the birds in the skies – all are sustained by Him.

how to increase **ALLAH'S MERCY** upon us

"Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good."

Qur'an 7:56

Due to God's Mercy, He has promised to forgive and pardon whosoever follows the appropriate means as mentioned in the following verse: **"And surely, I am indeed forgiving to him who repents, believes (in My Oneness, and associates none in worship with**

Me) and does righteous good deeds, and then remains constant in doing them." Qur'an 20:82. Part and parcel of having the correct belief is believing and obeying the final Messenger, Muhammad (peace be upon him).

In short, the people who receive more of Allah's Mercy are those who have acknowledged His blessings and favours; used them in a way which pleases God; spent their God-given wealth in charity and to look after the needy; employed their hands to care for orphans; utilised their gift of speech to speak good; and performed other honourable acts ordained by God.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **"Allah will show mercy to those who show mercy to people. Show mercy to those who are on earth - the One Who is in Heaven will show mercy to you."**

Below, are some ways to attain God's Mercy.

- **"Obey Allah and the Messenger that you may obtain mercy."** Qur'an 3:132
- By following the teachings of mercy and justice found in the Qur'an: **"And this is a blessed Book We have revealed; therefore follow it and protect yourself (against evil), that mercy may be shown to you."** Qur'an 6:155



• *“Keep up prayer and pay the compulsory charity (to the needy) and obey the Messenger, so that mercy may be shown to you.”* Qur'an 24:56

• Sincerely asking for Mercy from God. *“Our Lord! Make not our hearts to deviate after you have guided us aright, and grant us mercy from Yourself; surely You are The Bestower.”* Qur'an 3:8

MERCY & accountability

Alongside Allah's attribute of Mercy is His attribute of Justice. ***“Verily, for the Righteous, are Gardens of Delight, in the Presence of their Lord. Shall We then treat the People of Faith like those who do not believe? What is the matter with you? How do you judge?”*** Qur'an 68:34-36

Allah is the Most-Merciful, however, He is also Swift in Reckoning. One cannot try to deceive Allah and take advantage of His Mercy by constantly committing the same sins without sincere repentance or resolving never to go back to the sin again. ***“And of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil deeds until death faces one of them and he says: ‘Now I repent;’ nor of those who die while they are disbelievers.”*** Qur'an 4:18

Muslims are encouraged to have hope of reward for good deeds, while being concerned about sins they may perform. When they commit sins, they repent sincerely, and are hopeful of being forgiven. And finally, they feel content with the words of their Creator, and keep it close to their heart: ***“Surely Allah is Most Gentle, Ever Compassionate to people.”*** Qur'an 22:65

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INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM

L02 ENGLISH

(17/19)

نبذة عن الإسلام

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PRACTICAL & BALANCED
WAY OF LIFE



CLOSE & DIRECT
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



PURE & CLEAR
CONCEPT OF GOD



UNIVERSAL &
TIMELESS MESSAGE



Your Path To Peace..

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مشرقية بالبحرين

دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري | Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department
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WHAT IS ISLAM?

Islam is to believe in and to worship The One True God ("Allah" in Arabic) alone, and to accept Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as His final Messenger.

Approximately 1 in 4 people (23%) are Muslim – over 1.5 billion Muslims

Followers of Islam are known as Muslims who can be from any racial or ethnic background

FAITH & ATTITUDE

God calls on us to acknowledge Him through His signs. God has made it our responsibility to recognise Him. This is part of the test of this life. Without the right attitude, no amount of information can make someone believe.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | OBJECTIVITY & AN OPEN MIND | Preconceived barriers/ misconceptions to not believe | |
| | HUMBLENESS & SINCERITY | Pride & arrogance | |
| | CONTEMPLATION ABOUT OUR PURPOSE | Focus only on material world | |
| | RECEPTIVE TO GOD'S SIGNS | Dismiss everything as meaningless | |

Reason 1 Beginning of the Universe

The first reason for believing in God relates to reflecting on the origin of the universe.

How did the universe come to exist?

- Did it come from nothing? From nothing, comes nothing. So, obviously not.
- Did it create itself? No, this is irrational. It is like saying a mother gave birth to herself.
- Has it always existed? No, modern science concludes that the universe is not eternal and had a beginning.
- Was it created? Yes. Muslims believe something beyond the universe created it - The Creator.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Q. But who created God? | A. God was not created. Unlike the universe and the rest of creation, God is eternal, has always existed and has no beginning. |
|--------------------------------|---|



Reason 2 Order of the Universe

Another simple reason for believing in God is by pondering over the order of the universe using the following logic:



Many features in the universe clearly indicate it to be specially designed to support life. If these measurements were slightly different to what they currently are, life could not exist. Examples below.



OZONE LAYER



THICKNESS OF EARTH'S CRUST



OXYGEN % IN THE AIR



DISTANCE FROM SUN



RELATIVE SIZE OF SUN, EARTH & MOON

Could a large complex universe form by coincidence, without supervision? It should be noted that Islam encourages scientific research and reflection. The role of science helps us describe the many observed patterns that God places in His creation and appreciate the extent of His power and wisdom.

Reason 3 Revelation - Quran

The Quran provides a strong argument for the existence of God and it is unmatched in its style, wisdom, guidance, eloquence as well as its uniqueness in how it addresses the reader.



NO ERRORS OR CONTRADICTIONS



PURE & CLEAR DESCRIPTIONS OF GOD



PINNACLE OF ARABIC LINGUISTIC BEAUTY



REVEALED VIA PROPHET MUHAMMAD WHO WAS ILLITERATE



PRESERVED - NO ALTERATIONS IN 1400 YEARS



DEEP INSIGHTS INTO HUMAN BEHAVIOUR



MEMORISED BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE



CONTAINS SCIENTIFIC FACTS NOT KNOWN AT THAT TIME

“On earth there are signs for those with sure faith; and in yourselves too, do you not see?” Quran 51:20-21

WHO IS GOD?

One of the main beauties of Islam is that it acknowledges the complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness of God with absolutely no compromises.

- God is One & Unique and has no rivals, partners or sons.
- God is Worthy of All Worship - directly & exclusively (no intermediaries).
- God is Perfect & Flawless - No limitations or weaknesses.
- God is the Most Merciful - He knows we are imperfect and commit sins, however the key is to always acknowledge our mistakes and to sincerely ask for forgiveness.
- No part of God is present in His creation nor do others share in His divine attributes.

When trying to understand the concept of God in Islam, it is important to discuss the **status of Jesus**, given the widespread confusion and claims about his nature.

Islam acknowledges Jesus as an honourable Prophet and Messenger of God, but Muslims do not worship him - as worship is for God alone who created Jesus and everything that exists. As such, the belief of Jesus as God, or the son of God, or part of a trinity, clearly contradicts the pure teachings of God in Islam.



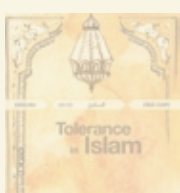
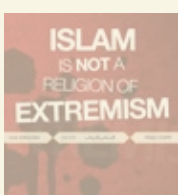
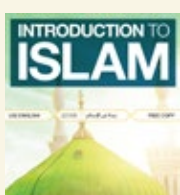
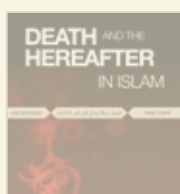
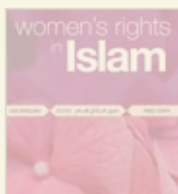
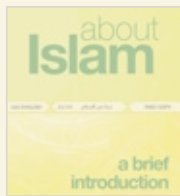
If Jesus was God, who would he be praying to? There are many examples in Christian teachings of Jesus speaking and behaving as if God is a separate being to himself, e.g. Jesus prays to God.

How can God be both perfect and imperfect? Jesus was born, ate, slept and had limited knowledge – all attributes not befitting God. God has attributes of perfection whereas Man is the opposite.

What does the term “son of God” really mean? We find the term “son of God” is symbolically used in the earliest biblical languages for a “righteous person” for many people - not exclusively for Jesus. God is far removed from having a physical and literal son.

Q. If God can do anything, why can't he become a man?
A. God always maintains attributes of perfection and does not do anything to compromise this perfection. By definition, God does not do ungodly acts. So, if God became man and took on human attributes, he would, necessarily, no longer be God.

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MANY PROPHETS

PROPHET ADAM
PROPHET NOAH
PROPHET ABRAHAM
PROPHET MOSES
PROPHET JESUS
PROPHET MUHAMMAD
+ OTHER PROPHETS

PEACE BE UPON
THEM ALL

1 MISSION

- Emphasise concept of one God
- Reject false gods and beliefs
- Demonstrate how to worship God
- Be an example of righteousness
- Describe rewards for obedience (heaven)
- Warn of punishment for disobedience (hell)

God sent Prophets to every nation throughout time with the same essential message - to worship one true God. Although Muslims love and respect all Prophets, they do not worship them or attribute divinity to them, as this is reserved solely for God.

PURPOSE OF LIFE

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 contented and successful life in all aspects.

It is part of God's infinite wisdom that He created us and gave us the opportunity to know Him and to experience our lives and make our own choices.

Islam is a complete and practical way of life that teaches Muslims to be balanced, decent and contributing members of society. The concept of worship in Islam does not only include praying and supplicating to God. It is a broad definition that includes any action that God is pleased with. Some examples include:

- Earning an honest living
- Respecting parents
- Opposing oppression
- Standing up for justice
- Taking care of orphans
- Kindness to neighbours
- Looking after the environment
- Having mindfulness of God
- Having patience & humility
- Providing for one's family
- Benefitting the community
- Speaking the truth

Acts of worship require the sincere intention to please God and must be performed correctly according to Islamic guidelines.



WHAT DOES ISLAM SAY ABOUT...

- **WOMEN:** Women have the highest respect in Islam. They are to be treated with love, honour and respect. They are the partners of men, and no oppression can ever be condoned towards them.
- **TERRORISM:** Islam permits fighting in order to preserve the well being of society, to prevent oppression from spreading, and to promote justice. However, targeting innocent non-combatants is a despicable act which is prohibited.
- **HALAL FOOD:** Halal foods are those lawful for Muslims to consume. Meats and poultry should be slaughtered humanely with suffering minimised, and God's name should be mentioned during slaughter.
- **EVOLUTION:** God created the first human being, Adam, in his final form - as opposed to evolving gradually from advanced apes. This cannot be directly confirmed or denied by science because this was a unique and singular historical event – a miracle. As for living creatures other than humans, Islamic sources are silent on the matter and only require us to believe that God created them in whatever manner He wanted, using evolution or otherwise.



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ISLAM IS NOT A RELIGION OF EXTREMISM

L02 ENGLISH

(18/19)

الإسلام والإرهاب

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“...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

”



Your Path To Peace..



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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.

Peter Manning, a journalist of over 30 years, states in his book, *“Us and Them”*:

“My experience tells me there’s a vast gulf between the realities of the daily lives of Arab and Muslim Australians and how they are represented in our [Australian] media.

In more than 60 percent of cases [from the coverage of 2 major newspapers], the words ‘violent’, ‘death’, ‘attack’, ‘kill’, ‘suicide’ or ‘gunmen’ were in close proximity to the words ‘Arab’, ‘Palestinian’, ‘Muslim’ or ‘Islam’.

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

The problem of ignorance is highlighted by a survey which revealed that more than one in three Australians admit to knowing nothing about Islam and its followers.

“Those with the least knowledge and personal contact with Muslims were the most likely to feel threatened by Islam,” said Dr Dunn, who was commissioned by the Australia-Indonesia Institute to carry out the study.

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.

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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 preserve 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:

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged."
 Qur'an 22:39

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

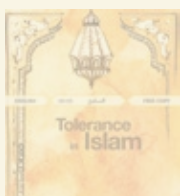
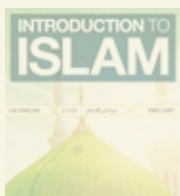
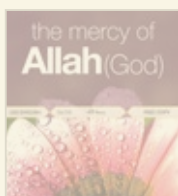
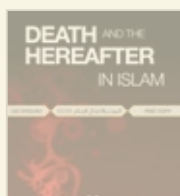
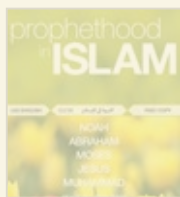
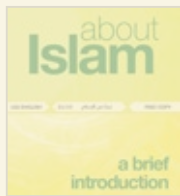
"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it and trust in God; surely He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower."
 Qur'an 8:61

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

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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.

“And let not the hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just: that is nearer to righteousness.”

Qur'an 5:8

ISLAM AND THE SWORD!

Many people, especially in the west, are wrongly driven by some biased historian to believe Islam is spread by the sword. However, it is not the same judgement of ‘fair’ and ‘neutral’ and ‘honest’ historians and great figures from different parts of the world. Here are some examples:

From the far East, the greatest indian leader in the modern history made it clear about the spread of Islam through the sword, he wrote:

“I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the second volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life.”

Mahatma Gandhi, statement published in ‘Young India,’ 1924.

As for the East, there are numerous examples of honest and fair academics and figures who witnessed the reality of Islam as a peaceful religion, throwing the alleged claim of many other biased historian about the ‘sword’. To name few:

De Lacy O’Leary

“History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.” in ‘Islam at the Crossroads,’ London, 1923.



James Albert Michener (American Author)

“No other religion in history spread so rapidly as Islam. The West has widely believed that this surge of religion was made possible by the sword. But no modern scholar accepts this idea, and the Qur’an is explicit in the support of the freedom of conscience.”

in ‘Islam: The Misunderstood Religion,’ Reader’s Digest, May 1955, pp. 68-70.

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.

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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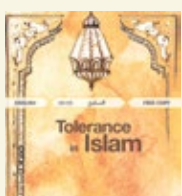
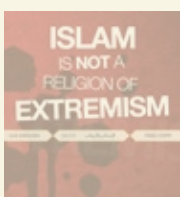
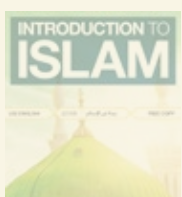
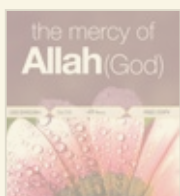
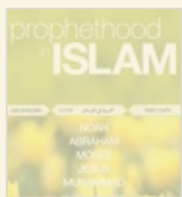
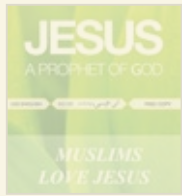
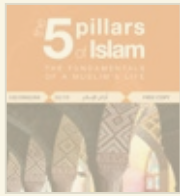
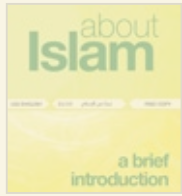
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Tolerance in Islam



عام التسامح
YEAR OF TOLERANCE



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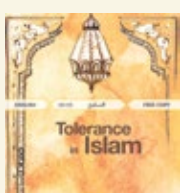
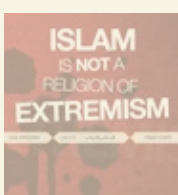
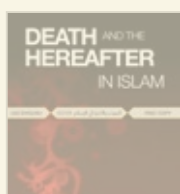
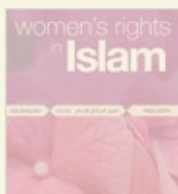
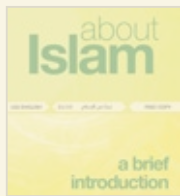
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دائرة الشؤون الإسلامية والعمل الخيري
Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department

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Concept and value of Tolerance in Islam



Meaning of "Tasamuh" (Tolerance)

Tolerance, linguistically, is derived from the root "Samaha" which indicates easiness, forbearance and forgiveness. Islam calls for forgiving wrongdoings and considers the person who tolerates and forgives as a noble person. Allah said: *{And not equal are the good deeds and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as though he was a devoted friend.} [Fussilat: 34]*

Although it is permissible in Islam to punish the wrongdoer for his injustice, the best action is to do good to those who offend you and to forgive those who wronged you. Allah – The Almighty - said: *{And the retribution for an evil act is an evil one like it. . .},* but He said in the same verse: *{but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation - his reward is [due] from Allah. Indeed, He does not like wrongdoers.} [Ash-Shura: 40]*

Tolerance in the Qur'an

Since tolerance is one of the core values in Islam, there are dozens of Qur'anic verses and prophetic narrations that encourage the Muslim to be tolerant, including but not limited to the following verses and hadiths.

Allah said – addressing the prophet and his nation: *{... so forgive with gracious forgiveness.} [Al-Hijr: 85], and commanded the Muslims with it again saying: {... so pardon and overlook until Allah delivers His command.} [Albaqarah 109]*

Tolerance in the Sunnah (Prophetic Teachings)

Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) is the role model of all Muslims. He was at the highest peak of tolerance and mercy, and had abundant forbearance, patience and forgiveness. He used to give to those who did not give to him, approach those who rejected him, and forgive those who wronged him. If someone increased his transgression, the Prophet (peace be upon him) increased his forbearance, patience, forgiveness and tolerance. He (peace be upon him) made many statements to instill tolerance in the hearts of Muslims, including but not limited to the following:

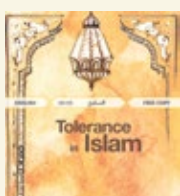
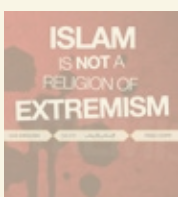
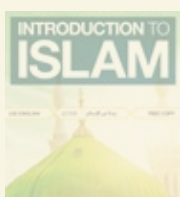
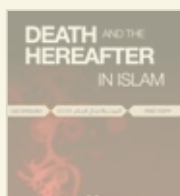
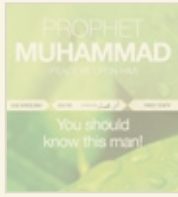
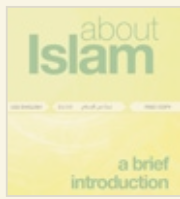
The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *"Hell-fire is forbidden to touch a man who is always having a polite and tender nature and is humble to people."* (Narrated by Ahmed, 7/52), and he also said: *"I was sent by the peaceful Monotheistic approach."*

Furthermore, the Prophet (peace be upon him) re-defined the meaning of a 'strong' person by indicating that it is he who can 'forgive' and 'tolerate' instead of taking revenge, by saying: *"The strong man is not the good wrestler, but the strong man is he who controls himself when he is angry."* (Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: *"The person who perfectly maintains the ties of kinship is not the one who recompenses the good done to him by his relatives, but he is the one who keeps good relations with those relatives who have severed the bond of kinship with him."* (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 5991)

However, tolerance in Islam is not exclusively related to human beings; it is also related to animals and everything else. The prophet (peace be upon him) said: *"Never does a Muslim plant or cultivate a land, and from it men eat, or the animals eat, or anything else eats, except that it becomes a charity on his (the planter's) behalf."* (Narrated by Muslim, 3765)

There are many more hadiths (Prophet's statements) in this regard that cannot be counted in this brief pamphlet.



Bright examples of tolerance in Islamic history

Muslims believed in and practised these divine commands and teachings and implemented them into their lifestyle and interactions. Over the course of history, there are numerous examples of events that reflect this value and the adherence of Muslims to it as part of their peaceful religion. In fact, Non-Muslims witnessed such incidents before Muslims, as will be stated.

During the lifetime of the Prophet (Peace be upon Him)

When the Prophet (peace be upon him) had victory over the Meccans, he said to those who severely prosecuted and expelled him: "What do you think I will do with you?" They replied: "A generous brother who is the son of a generous brother too." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Go, you are indeed free." What a display of tolerance and forgiveness at the time of deserved revenge!

As narrated by Abu Huraira: A Bedouin urinated in the mosque, and the people rushed to beat him. Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) ordered them to leave him and to pour a bucket or a tumbler (full) of water over the place where he had passed urine. The Prophet then said: *"You have been sent to make things easy (for the people), and you have not been sent to make things difficult for them."*

During the lifetime of the companions

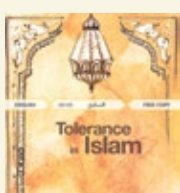
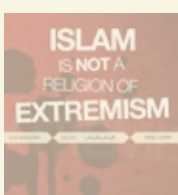
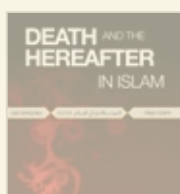
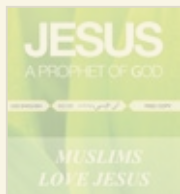
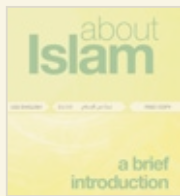
Aisha, the wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) mentioned the story of the people (the liars) who spread the slander against her and how they said what they said, and how Allah revealed verses about her innocence. When Allah said: *[Verily! Those who spread the slander...]* [24.11-21], she said all these verses were in proof of her innocence. Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (the father of Aisha) who used to provide to one of his Muslim relatives some financial aid because of his relation to him, said: "By Allah, I will never give anything (in charity) to him after what he has said about Aisha." Then Allah revealed: *{And let not those among you who are good and are wealthy swear not to give (any sort of help) to their kin's men...}* [24.22]. On that, Abu Bakr said, "Yes, by Allah, I would like that Allah should forgive me." and then resumed giving his relative the aid he used to give him and said, *"By Allah! I will never withhold it from him."* (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 4750)

Umar ibn Al-Khattab (the 2nd Muslim Caliph) passed by an old blind beggar in front of a house, so he asked him: "Are you a Jew or a Christian?" The man replied: "A Jew." Umar then took his hands and went to his home, gave him some foodstuff then sent a command to the treasury of the state saying: "Consider the needs of this man and those who are similar to him. Verily, By Allah, we shall not be fair with him if we consumed his youth then left him alone when he is old."

During Islamic history

One of the main aspects of tolerance in the history of Islamic states is that high profile jobs are granted to a qualified person regardless of his ethnicity or religion. The Christian physicians had a special position by the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs, and they supervised the medical schools in Baghdad and Damascus for a long time. For instance, Ibn Athal, the Christian, was the personal doctor of the Companion and caliph Mu'awiyah, and Sarjoon was his clerk. Also, the Caliph Marwan assigned two non-Muslims, Athanasios and Ishaq, to take government roles. Later, Athanasios was promoted to be the prime minister where he had great prestige and fortune.

Terton praised the tolerance of Muslims saying: "The Muslim writers are generous in appreciating the virtues of those who are non-Muslims, to the extent that they called "Haneen ibn Ishaq" the head of physicians of his time, and "Hibatullah bin Tilmeedh" the Hippocrates of his time and Galenos of his era. "Bakhtysho'a ibn Jiba'el" enjoyed the kindness of the Caliph Al-Mutawakil to the extent that they were almost identical in their clothes, prestigious status, wealth and perfection of virility, and owned the same perfumes and slaves. As for "John bin Masaweh", he had served the Abbasid caliphs from Ar-Rasheed until Al-Mutawakil, and never missed their eating gatherings. Therefore, there were no formalities between him and the Caliph Al-Mutawakil while there was much friendship and leniency.



Manifestations of tolerance in Islam

Tolerance in performing acts of worship

Tolerance and easiness is a fundamental aspect of performing acts of worship in Islam, to name a few of the manifestations in this regard:

1. Whoever does not find water for ablution he/she may make tayammum (To do simple acts without water).
2. Whoever is not able to stand in prayer he/she may sit. If he/she is not able to sit, then lie down, to the extent that he/she may do the acts of prayer by moving the eyes and even by the heart.
3. Whoever does not find halal food for eating and he/she fears harm, then he/she is allowed to eat from non-halal food.

There is a general maxim that governs all acts of worship: "Necessities render prohibitions as permissible", but the Prophet (peace be upon him) dispraised extremity in fulfilling the major or minor acts of worship.

Tolerance in transactions

Easiness and tolerance are also featured in transactions and other legal domains. The Prophet (peace be upon him) exemplified the aspects of tolerance in transactions saying: *"May Allah have mercy on a person who is lenient when he sells, lenient when he buys, and lenient when he asks for payment."*

Tolerance also overwhelms all aspects of ethical dealings. Allah (The Glorified and Mighty) commanded us not only to tolerate and forgive but to act in kindness against those who have offended us saying: *{And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is good...}* [Fussilat: 34]

Even in the verse of retribution, Allah (may he be glorified) said: *{... But whoever overlooks from his brother anything, then there should be a suitable follow-up and payment to him with good conduct. This is an alleviation from your Lord and a mercy...}* [Al-Baqarah: 178]. While the retribution was compulsory upon the Jews, compensation paid to relatives was imposed upon the Christians, Allah blessed this nation with three options: retribution, giving compensation paid to relatives or forgiveness.

One of the outstanding verses that indicate this value is the command of Allah to His prophet (peace be upon him) saying: *{And lower your wing to those who follow you of the believers.}* [Ash-Shu'araa: 215]

Tolerance between muslims and each other

Allah also prescribed the brotherhood of all believers saying: *{The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers...}* [Al-Hujurat: 10] and He also described the Prophet's companions saying: *{... merciful among themselves...}* [Al-Fath: 28]

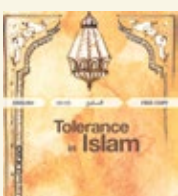
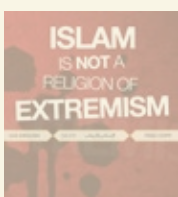
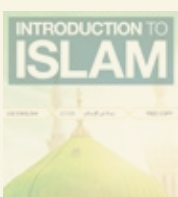
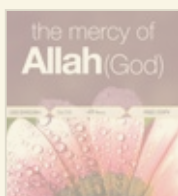
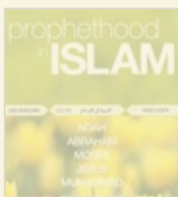
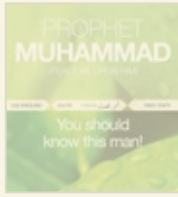
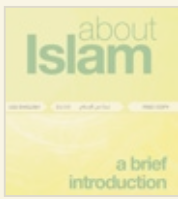
Tolerance between muslims and non-muslims

The following Qur'anic verse indicates the Divine command of tolerance between Muslims and non-Muslims. Allah said: *{Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.}* [Al-Mumtahanah: 8]

The invitation to Islam must be in a peaceful and well-mannered way, even when we argue with non-Muslims. Allah (may he be glorified) said: *{Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in the best way...}* [An-Nahl: 125]

The commands of being tolerant and kind towards non-Muslims goes even further to become an obligation to protect them if they requested your protection. Allah (may he be glorified) said: *{And if any one of the polytheists seeks your protection, then grant him protection so that he may hear the words of Allah. Then deliver him to his place of safety...}* [At-Tawbah: 6]

Furthermore, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned the Muslims against being unjust towards non-Muslims. He said: *"Beware, if anyone wrongs a Mu'ahad (non-Muslim lives in the Islamic State), or diminishes his right, or forces him to work beyond his capacity, or takes from him anything without his consent, I shall plead for him on the Day of Judgment."*



Misconceptions about Tolerance

Islam is the religion of violence and prosecution

Below is an example of the 'fair' testimonials made by non-Muslims about the so called violence in Islam.

Turton A. S. delivers in his book -People of Covenant. P.159- a testimony for Patriarch Ghaytho who were the Pop until 657, who wrote:

'The Arabs, to whom the Lord has given control over the world, treat us as you know; they are not the enemies of Christians. Indeed, they praise our community, and treat our priests and saints with dignity, and offer aid to churches and monasteries.'

Is Tolerance in Islam a false claim?

Some people may overlook the previous account on tolerance in Islam and focus on the occurrence of wars in Islamic history during the lifetime of the prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon Him) and afterwards. They hold their view as if there is no war in the world except by Muslims, and as if all parties of all wars are wrong doers. They overlook the fact that the same war may be ethical or unethical based on the "motives". The issue is not in the war itself, but in the motives behind waging that war; to colonialize other nations or to expel colonizers from our lands as an example. The focus should be on the 'motives' and 'ethics' of wars; to defend one's self, people, community, nation, religion... etc and to observe the ethics of war in all cases. If we look at the ethics of war in Islam, we find that it is an example to be followed in dealing with wars. The prophet advised an army saying: ***"Fight in the name of Allah and do not be treacherous and do not be dishonest about war booty and do not deface (in killing) and do not kill a child."*** And advised again one of his leaders saying: ***"Tell Khalid not to kill a woman or a hired servant."*** The first Caliph; Abu Bakr followed the same path; advising the army saying: "Do NOT kill a child, a woman, an aged person, a patient, or a monk. Do NOT cut fruits, slaughter animals except for eating, ruin buildings or dump or burn the hive". **Does any modern country observe half of these ethics in its wars?!** The answer is, unfortunately, killing civilians, killing and raping women, destroying houses over the weak heads and bodies of children and infants and ruining the infrastructure of the opposite country or nation.

Does Tolerance mean weakness and humiliation?

None has ever understood that the value of tolerance indicates weakness and humiliation. Perhaps, some people see some of the tolerant acts as weakness or humiliation, which it is not. The tolerant attitude of Muslims with non-Muslims does not stem from Islam being a weak or humiliated religion. Rather, it stems from the core values of justice, humanity and religious freedom; the values that have been established and protected theoretically and practically within the Islamic frame.

On the other hand, some Muslims may, wrongly, consider some of the humiliating acts as indications of tolerance, which is not too. Acts which contradict the core Islamic beliefs and values shall not be done in the name of Islamic tolerance; we shall NOT praise any form of associating other partners with Allah as an act of tolerance as an example. The Muslim is strong by his religion and religiosity, and he/she shall not submit their religion to what invalidates its foundations or humiliates its fixed and core teachings and values in the name of tolerance.



Fruits of Tolerance

Non-Muslim testimonials on the Islamic Tolerance

Throughout the brilliant period of Arab civilization, it can be said that religious tolerance was absolute. We have provided too much evidence for a lengthy return, and we will confine ourselves to mentioning again Mr Dozy's account of an Arab theologian who attended Baghdad at several philosophical conferences in which people of all creeds took part: Jews, Atheists, Muslims, Christians, etc. Everyone was listened to with the utmost attention, and he was only asked to provide arguments drawn from reason, and not from the authority of any religious book. After more than a thousand years of frightful wars, of secular hatred, of merciless carnage, civilized countries have not yet been able to rise to a similar tolerance.

He also noted: *'This tolerance and gentleness, so little known to historians, was one of the causes of the rapidity with which the conquests of the Arabs were extended, and the principal reason for the ease with which their religion, their institutions, and their language were everywhere accepted.'*

Last but not least Thomas Arnold wrote in his book *The Preaching of Islam* p.51,

"From the examples given above of the toleration extended towards the Christian Arabs by the victorious Muslims of the first century of Hijrah (Islamic calendar) and continued by succeeding generations, we may surely infer that those Christian tribes that did embrace Islam, did so of their own choice and free will. The Christian Arabs of the present day dwelling amid a Muhammadan population, are a living testimony of this toleration."

Year of Tolerance

Tolerance is the slogan of UAE since its establishment

One of the good fortunes of the year 2019 is choosing it as the year of tolerance by the leadership of UAE "Year of Tolerance". In fact, tolerance in this country is not just a slogan of a certain year; it is a core value upon which the state is established as witnessed by people from all over the world. If you considered the status of this country before and after the establishment of the union, you will be surprised by the level of tolerance of the leaders who established it. Those tolerant leaders led by Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid May Allah have Mercy upon them all gathered in an area called "As-Sameeh" which is derived from the Arabic root of tolerance and decided to establish the UAE. This blessed meeting resulted in the current prosperity which has become a striking example in present times. This year 2019 is an opportunity to reflect on such a peaceful and tolerant spirit which has grown year after year and is witnessed by all visitors and residents who interact with its people. This year 2019 is an opportunity to erase any negative impression which may be falsely attributed to Islam through our practising of the value of Tolerance as one of the core values of our peaceful religion.

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