

## Who are Muslims?

Muslims are followers of Islam, a monotheistic religion that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in the 7th century CE. Islam teaches that it is the final and complete revelation of the same faith that was revealed to previous prophets, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus (peace be upon them all). Today, there are over a billion Muslims worldwide, spanning diverse cultures, languages, and backgrounds.

## Concept of God in Islam

In Islam, Allah is the singular, omnipotent, and merciful creator of the universe. Muslims believe in the oneness of God (Tawhid) and strive to worship Him with sincerity and devotion. "Allah" is simply the Arabic word for God, and Muslims believe in the same God worshipped by Jews and Christians.

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# Introduction to Islam.

A brief introduction.



# Diet and Dress

Islamic dietary laws (Halal) prohibit the consumption of pork and alcohol, while prescribing humane methods of animal slaughter in accordance with Islamic slaughtering methods. Modesty in dress (Hijab for women, modest attire for men) are compulsory as a reflection of piety and dignity.

# How to Become a Muslim

Becoming a Muslim is a simple process known as the Shahada, or declaration of faith. By sincerely reciting the Shahada ("There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger"), one enters into the fold of Islam. The Shahada is a simple yet profound declaration that signifies one's acceptance of Islam as well as the six articles of belief.



## The Six articles of belief in Islam are:

- 1. Belief in Allah:** The oneness and sovereignty of God, recognizing that He is the only deity worthy of worship.
- 2. Belief in Angels:** Heavenly beings created by Allah who carry out His commands and serve various functions in the universe.
- 3. Belief in Divine Books:** Scriptures revealed to various prophets, including the Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and the Quran, which is the final and complete revelation.
- 4. Belief in Prophets:** Messengers sent by Allah to guide humanity, including notable prophets such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).
- 5. Belief in the Day of Judgment:** The belief in resurrection, accountability, and the afterlife, where individuals will be judged by Allah for their deeds.
- 6. Belief in Qadar (Divine Decree):** The belief in Allah's divine decree and ultimate control over destiny, acknowledging that everything (both good and bad) happens by His will and wisdom.

## Marriage and Social Manners

Marriage is highly regarded in Islam as a sacred bond between a man and a woman, emphasizing mutual respect, love, and cooperation. Social manners (Adab) such as honesty, kindness, and generosity are integral to Islamic ethics.

## Five Pillars of Islam

The fundamental acts of worship and devotion for Muslims:

- 1. Shahada (Faith):** Declaration of faith in the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad.
- 2. Salah (Prayer):** Performing the five daily prayers facing the Kaaba in Mecca.
- 3. Sawm (Fasting):** Observing fasting during the month of Ramadan from dawn until sunset.
- 4. Zakat (Charity):** Giving a portion of one's wealth to those in need.
- 5. Hajj (Pilgrimage):** Performing the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if physically and financially able.

These pillars are the core practices that shape a Muslim's faith and actions.

## Sources of Islamic Information

The primary sources of Islamic knowledge are the Qur'an (the holy book of Islam), the Hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad), Ijma' (Consensus) and Qiyas (Analogical Reasoning). The Qur'an is considered the literal word of God, while Hadith are records of the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad. Additionally, scholars and Islamic literature provide valuable insights into the teachings and practices of Islam.