

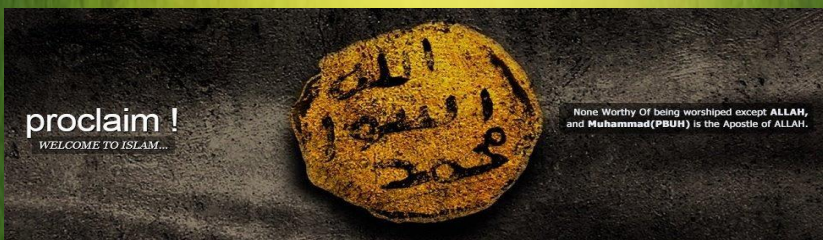
# BASIC ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES FOR BEGINNERS

HOW?

ISLAM

Why?

PREPARED FOR PROCLAIM!  
BY ABU AHMED AL WAKEEL



**proclaim!**  
WELCOME TO ISLAM...

None Worthy Of being worshiped except **ALLAH**,  
and **Muhammad(PBUH)** is the Apostle of **ALLAH**.

For more information about Islam your local contact person is:

<p>Name:</p> <p>Contact number:</p>
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## Part 1

### INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC BELIEFS

#### 1. What is Islam

Islam means to completely submit ones devotion to the Obedience of God Almighty through the example set out to us by the final Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). It is the religion practiced by all the prophets of God, from Adam to Noah to Abraham to Ishaq to Ishmael to Jesus and Prophet Mohammed as a final Messenger of God (peace upon them all). These were some of the mighty men of God sent to us as a means of guidance and practical way of life.

#### 2. The Beliefs of a Muslim

##### I. To Believe In God Almighty

**And with Him are the keys of the unseen treasures-- none knows them but He; and He knows what is in the land and the sea, and there falls not a leaf but He knows it, nor a grain in the darkness of the earth, nor anything green nor dry but (it is all) in a clear book. (Quran 6:59)**

We believe in one God before whom there was none and after whom there shall be none. The Uncreated, Unborn, Knower of all things that ever happens in the Universe. Nothing ever happens without the complete foreknowledge and permission of God Himself. Allah has knowledge and power over every single leaf on every tree, the minutest fish that swim in the darkest of oceans, He provides for every insect, every bird, every animal and every being that He has created. He has created all things and all things are under His control.

God does not sleep neither does He rest neither does He get old. God is not subject to the rules of time nor science. God created science and is not subject to the rules that govern our life.

In the beginning when God created men, Satan chose to defy God and has taken it upon himself to challenge God and to challenge man every step of the way. Eventually Satan and those who follow him will be judged by God and be doomed to God's eternal punishment.

On the other hand those who choose to prefer God over Satan are those who are successful in the Hereafter. By worshipping God we need to obey Him in His mode and instruction of worship. We pray to Him 5 times a day, whilst we remember him constantly in everything that we do. We remember God when we seek sustenance, when we remove harm from another person, visit the sick, feed the poor and all such acts are considered acts of worship and devotion to God.

Islam promotes good moral behaviour and good citizenship. It encourages virtue, dignity and respect. It discourages sin and immoral behaviour in our daily lives.

## II. The Quran

God talks to us directly in the Quran. The Quran is the final revelation to man setting out a path to salvation. In it are stories of the past and the prophets that lived then, legislative requirements and measures in both civil and criminal matters. It provides a guidance to a virtuous life and general religious instruction that we need to understand and adopt into our own lives.

The Quran remains untampered with ever since God revealed it to Prophet Mohammed over 1400 years ago. This is conclusively God's word to us that we respect and honour by reciting it daily in our prayers.

Muslims commit parts of the Holy Scripture to memory to preserve it and remain conscience of God's message to us. There exists no other book on

the face of the earth that has this track record and status in the eyes of its reader.

As one reads the Quran with an open heart and the hope that guidance can be obtained from it Allah opens your way to His light and guidance and much inspiration will be obtained from the Quran. God has provided us with an instruction manual for our life and this is the Quran.

### III. The Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him)

The prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) was sent to an idol worshipping nation in the desert over 1400 years ago. He faced many challenges and was persecuted for declaring that God was not an idol. His message to the people was that God is living and not a stone, Eternal, All Powerful, Gracious, Merciful, our Creator, Sustainer and Nourisher. After 13 years of persecution the prophet and his followers migrated to Medinah to establish Islam in a peaceful environment. Yet the invaders declared war on them in an effort to eradicate Islam from the face of the earth. Notwithstanding the muslim's small numbers, it was God's will that Islam was to spread quickly to the Arabian Peninsula in the lifetime of the prophet.

Muslims have the most perfect of examples in the lifestyle of the prophet of Islam. We accept his instructions and advice and he has showed us practically how to be a good muslim and good person in all aspects of life.

### IV. The Companions of the Prophet

Those companions who were faithful to the prophet supported him in establishing an Islamic Political System for the Arabs. They demonstrated by example how the prophet (peace be upon him) lived his life in the finest of details. Islam was taken to the four corners of the known world through their efforts, and in a short while North Africa, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq had large amounts of new Muslims in their midst. Through peaceful means an Islamic Empire was established, societies were uplifted

and ordinary people became literate and devoted in the worship of God. Today we practice Islam largely because of the unwavering and steadfast determination of the early Muslims. They ensured the purity of Islam remain intact notwithstanding the cultural influences that manage to seep into any religion. We have today written works by authoritative scholars, who have compiled detailed recordings of the life of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). We know how he prayed, fasted, kept relations with those whom he encountered, dealt with his business and political issues. The sayings of the prophet are contained in books of hadith and his words to us have been protected over the centuries.

## V. The Creation and Angels

Except for God everything that exists in the heavens and the earth is the creation of God. In other words everything that we see, everything that exists in the universe has a purpose. There are angels that God created that exist amongst us. They record our every action and will present it to God on the Day of Judgement when God will judge all our actions. Angels are made out of light and are obedient to God in every respect.

## VI. The Devil

The devil disobeyed God at the time of the creation of Adam and has vowed to mislead and misguide human beings on earth. Allah warns us not to befriend satan. Verily those who do evil and bad deeds follow satan through his influence on their lives. Satan is damned to the fire of hell together with those who follow him.

Satan tricks us into believing that our works are acceptable to God and that we are pleasing Him. Our bad deeds appear fair and justified and that way Satan controls our lives.

Satan keeps us away from proper devotion and worship but makes us believe that our minimal worship (if any) is sufficient for the worship of God.

The Quran warns us of how our parents (Adam and Eve) had themselves removed from Heaven because of the shrewdness of Satan with his trickery and how Satan will continue with his evil until the final day of Judgement when Allah will judge him and condemn him to the fire of Hell.

## **VII. Heaven**

Heaven has been promised by Allah to those who have chosen to follow His path and His ways and steered away from Satan. Heaven is something that the eyes have not seen, the ears cannot hear and the brain cannot imagine. Its beauty and magnificence is described repeatedly in the Quran. Life therein has no shortcomings, trials and hardship but rather it is filled with abundance of pleasure. In Paradise there is no death and your abode there is perpetual. Our efforts of this world will be recognised in Paradise. Every good deed before our death in this world will increase our reward and our level in heaven. We know that this world is merely a test and we strive to please God in everything that we do.

## **VIII. Hell**

For those that disobey God by refusing to worship Him and Him alone their eternal abode will be the fire of hell. All prophets warned their people about hell and human beings are cautioned about the punishment of the hereafter and we should choose to stay as far away from hell as we can. The lives of those in hell are also eternal and permanent.

Hell has been reserved by those who choose not to pay God His due rights and those criminal and ungrateful men and women who preferred to live their life in this world without consideration about the afterlife.



## **IX. Our life on earth**

Allah has allocated our time on earth for us to prove our worth to Him. The life of this world is very temporary and short yet we choose in many ways to be unfaithful to God's commands and thus earn the displeasure of God.

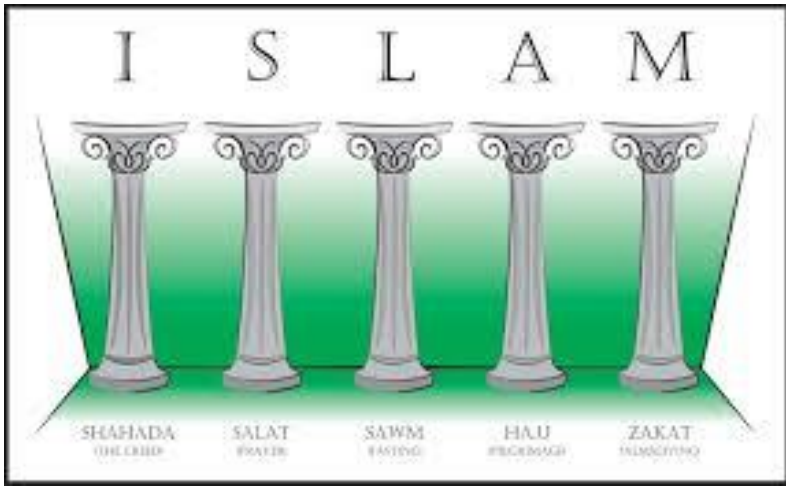
At most our lifespan does not exceed 80 years which is in reality a very short time to dedicate to the total submission and worship of our Creator who has chosen to give us life when we were nothing not even a speck of dust.

We worship Him because we are grateful to Him for the favours He has bestowed upon us and for His grace and mercy in our lives every day. We are obedient to Him and we are gracious to our fellow human beings whom we are required to treat with dignity and respect. We are mindful in serving our fellow human beings. We are respectful and dutiful to our parents, spouses, families, friends, neighbours and the community and our service to them is all part of our religion for which Allah will reward us.

Allah has recorded all the actions in our lives and will reward us and also question us about our deeds and the blessings that He has provided us with in our lives. We are ever mindful that death can overtake us at any time and that we should be prepared to meet Him. So we live our life always considerate of the fact that Allah is ever watchful over everything that we do.

When we die we lose all opportunity of remedying the situation so it's best that we take full advantage of our little precious time of earth.

## PILLARS OF ISLAM



### What Are the Five Pillars of Islam?

The Five Pillars of Islam are the framework of the Muslim life. They are the testimony of faith, prayer, giving *zakat* (charity to the needy), fasting during the month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime for those who are able.

#### **1. The Testimony of Faith:**

The testimony of faith is saying with conviction, “*La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammadur rasoolu Allah.*” This saying means “**There is no true god (deity) but God (Allah),<sup>1</sup> and Muhammad is the Messenger (Prophet) of God.**” The first part, “There is no true god but God,” means that none has the right to be worshipped but God alone, and that God has neither partner nor son. This testimony of faith is called the *Shahada*, a simple formula which should be said with conviction in order to convert to

Islam. The testimony of faith is the most important pillar of Islam. The vocal testimony is a reflection of the belief that the heart must contain.

No other formality is required to accept Islam yet this is the single most important declaration in a Muslim's life.

**A man called Amr came to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and said, "Give me your right hand so that I may give you my pledge of loyalty." The Prophet stretched out his right hand. Amr withdrew his hand. The Prophet said: "What has happened to you, O Amr?" He replied, "I intend to lay down a condition." The Prophet asked: "What condition do you intend to put forward?" Amr said, "That God forgive my sins." The Prophet said: "Didn't you know that converting to Islam erases all previous sins?"**

## **2. Prayer:**

Muslims perform five prayers a day. Each prayer does not take more than a few minutes to perform. Prayer in Islam is a direct link between the worshipper and God. There are no intermediaries between God and the worshipper.

In prayer, a person feels inner happiness, peace, and comfort, and that God is pleased with him or her.

Prayers are performed at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and night. A Muslim may pray almost anywhere, such as in fields, offices, factories, or universities.

By praying at fixed intervals we balance our day and are mindful of God in our day. We obey Him by worshipping Him and being thankful to Him for all His favours on us.

### **3. Giving Charity (zakat)**

All things belong to God, and wealth is therefore held by human beings in trust. The original meaning of the word *zakat* is both ‘purification’ and ‘growth.’ Giving *zakat* means ‘giving a specified percentage on certain properties to certain classes of needy people.’



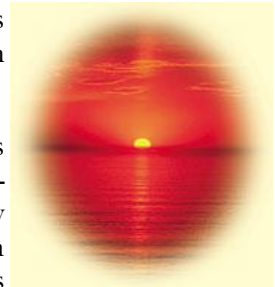
Charity is a virtuous deed in Islam and is highly encouraged. It alleviates the issues of poverty and redistributes wealth according to a fair and direct payment system where even the poor are considered as part of a religious duty.

A person may also give as much as he or she pleases as voluntary alms or charity.

### **4. Fasting during the Month of Ramadan:**

Every year in the month of Ramadan, all Muslims fast from dawn until sundown, abstaining from food, drink, and sexual relations.

Although the fast is beneficial to health, it is regarded principally as a method of spiritual self-purification. By cutting oneself off from worldly comforts, even for a short time, a fasting person gains true sympathy with those who go hungry, as well as growth in his or her spiritual life.



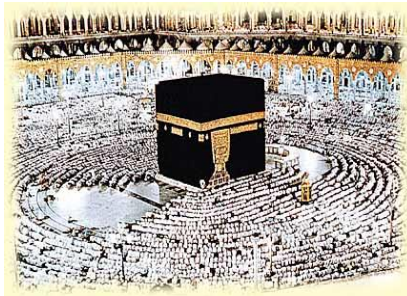
Fasting has many benefits and include understanding the hunger pangs of the poor for a short while. It allows us at some time to challenge our passions and desires and practice restraint and check our conduct.

We use this opportunity to increase in our worship and devotion to Allah, serving the community which we live in and developing a healthy moderate eating regime.

Like any vehicle would require an annual service, we too service our conduct, religion and physical self in this short but powerful month.

## 5. The Pilgrimage to Makkah:

The annual pilgrimage (*Hajj*) to Makkah is an obligation once in a lifetime for those who are physically and financially able to perform it. Over five million people go to Makkah each year from every corner of the globe. Although Makkah is always filled with visitors, the annual *Hajj* is performed in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar. Male pilgrims wear special simple clothes which strip away distinctions of class and culture so that all stand equal before God.



Pilgrims praying at the *Haram* mosque in Makkah. In this mosque is the Kaaba (the black building in the picture) which Muslims turn toward when praying. The Kaaba is the place of worship which God commanded the Prophets Abraham and his son, Ishmael, to build and prayer thereat is 100 000 times more rewarding than prayer anywhere else.

Muslims do not pray to the Kaaba but rather use this as a compass point that provides a uniform direction for all muslims around the world.

## LIVING ISLAM

Once the realisation is upon us that we cannot waste the precious time that God has allocated to us on earth we will need some direction and route to follow in order to reach a successful result. If we are travelling in the wrong direction, no matter how fast we drive we still will never reach our destination.

Islam provides the solution to the issues of salvation and success. It is through Islamic Religious teachings that we are able to conduct our life in the way that God wants us to live our life. Merely accepting that there is a God without fulfilling your religious obligation is failing to understand our purpose in the life of this world. Merely experiencing religion once a week is insufficient to inculcate continuous glorification of God who has created us and has instructed us that as a minimum we should devote ourselves to Him at least 5 times a day. We are taught by God exactly how to pray to Him and to be grateful for His blessings. Any other form of worship is man made and cannot hold the same value.

We are grateful to God for His Favours on us, for not creating us into a dog or a fly. We thank him daily for His favour on us and cannot ever thank Him enough for His bounties. God will continue to favour us with His favours even if we choose not to obey Him. He gives us all an opportunity to choose and sow the deeds for which He will one day question us about.

When we come to the realisation that we cannot waste even a single second then we turn to God sincerely and repent for the sins of the past and pray for our success in this world and the next.

In conclusion, all of us are in preparation for a final examination. Some choose to study and prepare and others care less about this examination. Their careless attitude is astounding to those who are sacrificing some the worldly attractions so that they may be rewarded with a pass in the final examination.

Heaven is not cheap. It does take an effort, but when a person is ready for Heaven every limb in his body will readily submit because he knows it is worth the sacrifice.

So, Are you ready for Heaven?

**And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden in Paradise as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous**

Quran 3:133



This booklet has been purposefully compiled to introduce basic Islamic beliefs to those with a sincere desire to enquire about the fastest growing religion on earth.

It aims to cover the general aspects any new muslim must become familiar with and provides a foundation for further research and enquiry.

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