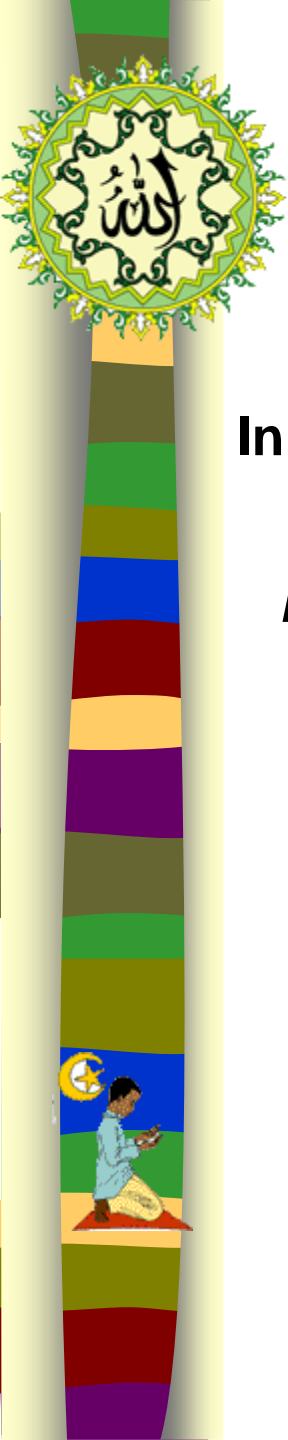




Introduction to Islam





THE OPENING

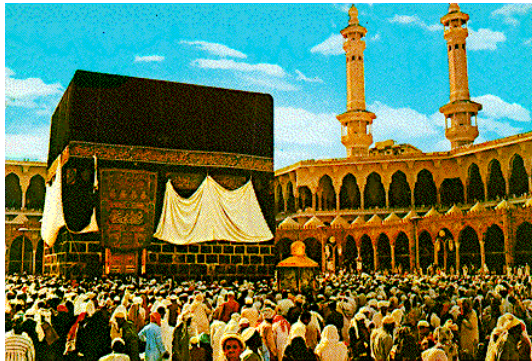
In the name of God, the most Beneficent, the most Merciful!

*Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe, the Mercy-giving, the Merciful. Ruler on the Day of Judgment!
You do we worship and You do we call on help.
Guide us along the Straight Road, the road of those whom You have favored, with whom You are not angry, nor who are lost!*



Allah – The name of God is one of Islam's most holy symbols

The **star and crescent** is widely accepted as a symbol of the Islamic faith, and is used in decorative arts, jewelry, and national flags- much like the cross in Christian countries. It is associated with the use of the moon to time festivals. It is, however, not accepted by *all* Muslims- many Muslims consider it un-Islamic and even blasphemous.

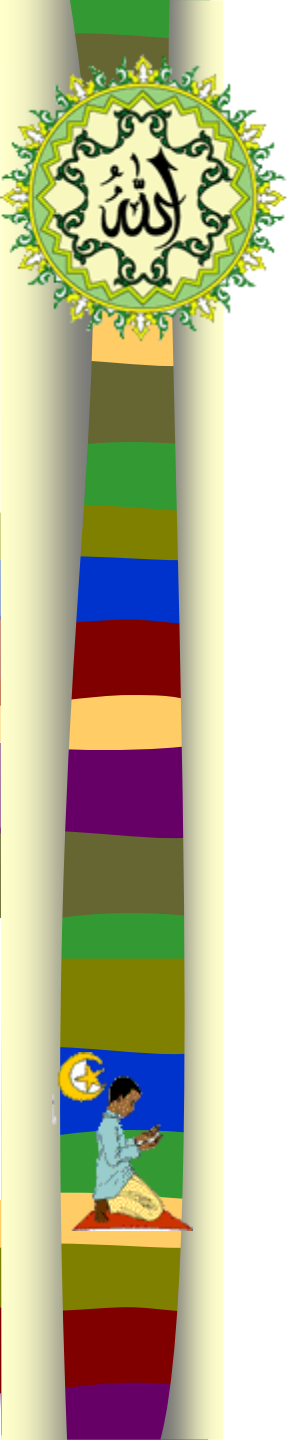


The Ka'aba is the most sacred place on earth for Islam. As is the mosque of the Prophet in Medina, in which the Ka'aba is found (background).



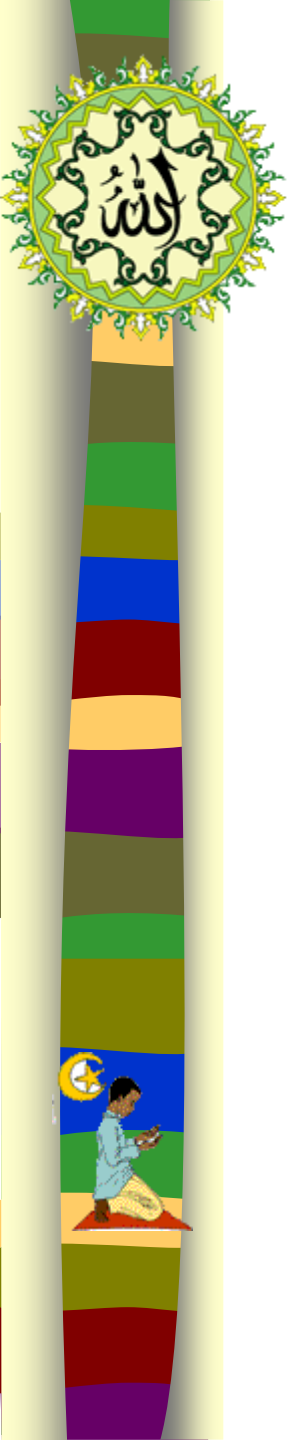
Bismillah plays an important role in Islamic Culture. Following the practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Muslims begin with the name of Allah before doing anything. *Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim* is translated as "In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful". Bismillah occurs at the head of every chapter (*surah*) in the Holy Qur'an. It is often represented very artistically.





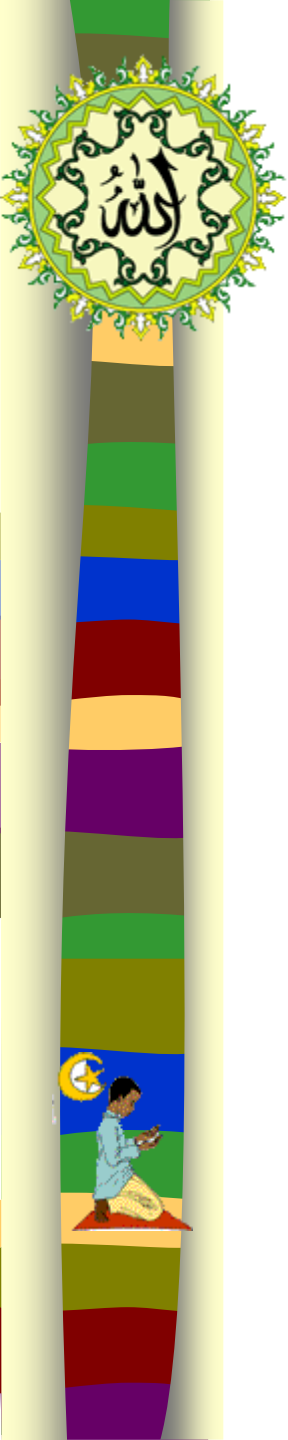
The Contents

- **The Meaning of Islam**
- **Who are Muslims**
- **Allah “God”**
- **The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)**
- **The Sources Of Islam**
- **The Five Pillars of Islam**
- **The Six Articles of Islamic Faith**
- **Some Principles of Islam**
- **Islam and Issues (Women, Jihad, Terrorism)**



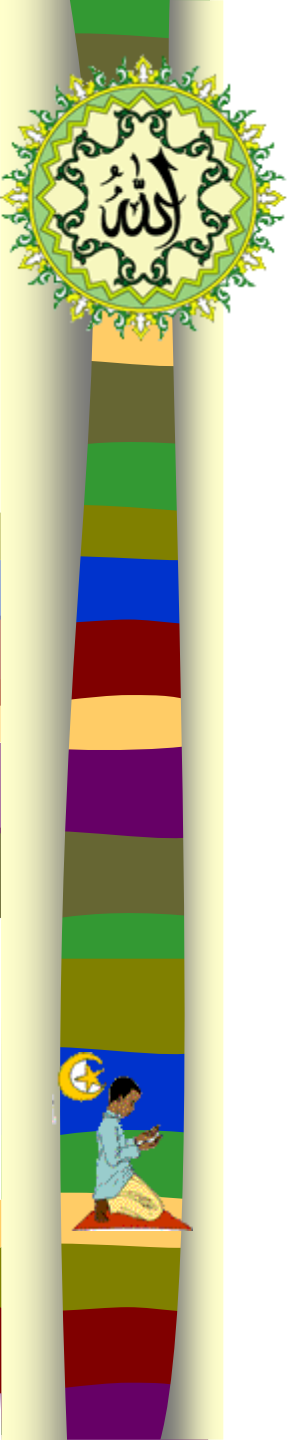
ISLAM

- **Islam is the name of the religion.**
- **The root of the word Islam comes from SILM or SALAM which means peace.**
- **Islam also means complete submission to one God and living in peace with the creator, with yourself and with the environment**
- **Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world**
- **Islam is not only a religion but a complete way of life**



MUSLIMS

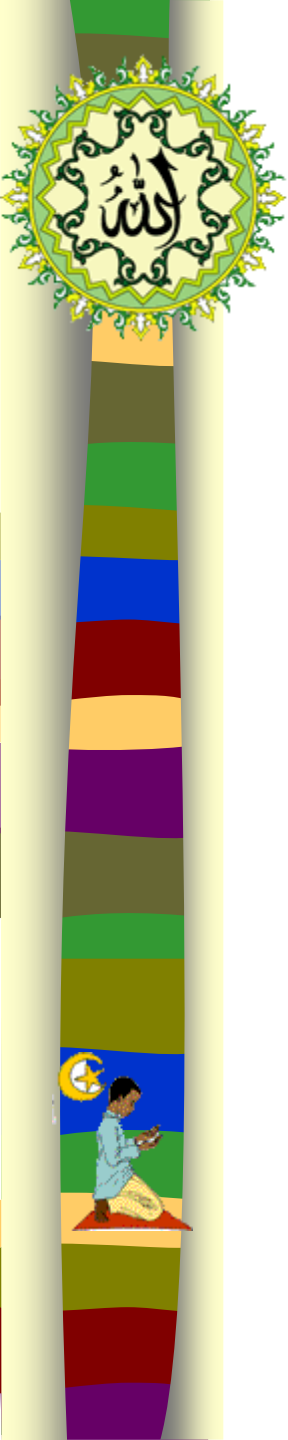
- The followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims come from ALL parts of the world “Arabian Countries, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America”.
- The population of the Muslims all over the world is more than **1.2 billion**.
- In the United States there are more than **7 million** Muslims.



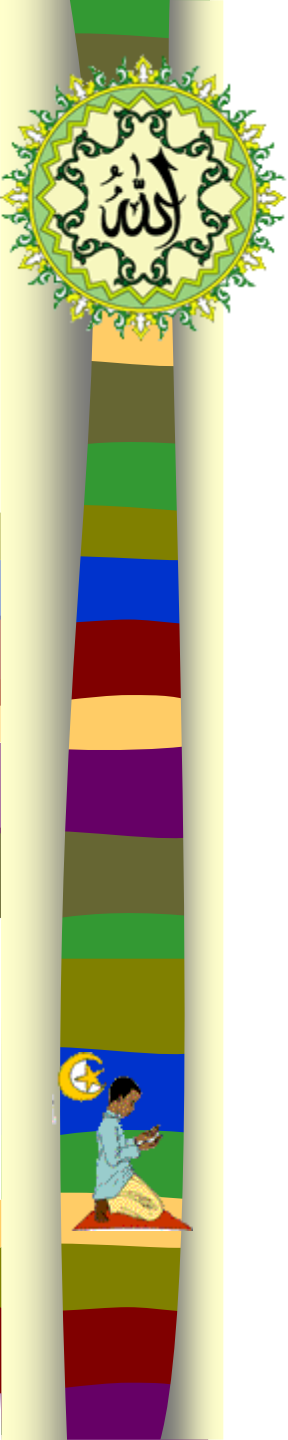
ALLAH “God”

- In Arabic, Allah means God
- Muslims believe that there is only one God.
- Allah has 99 beautiful names such as The Gracious, The Merciful, The Beneficent, The Creator, All Knowing, All Wise, The Lord of the Universe, The First and The Last
- Allah is The Creator of all human beings
- Christians, Jews and Muslims worship the same God.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



- **Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet for all mankind**
- **He was born in 570 CE (Common Era) in Mecca, Arabia**
- **He was entrusted with the Message of Islam at the age of 40**
- **The revelation that he received is called the Quran, while the message is called Islam**
- **The Message of Muhammad (Islam) is for all people**



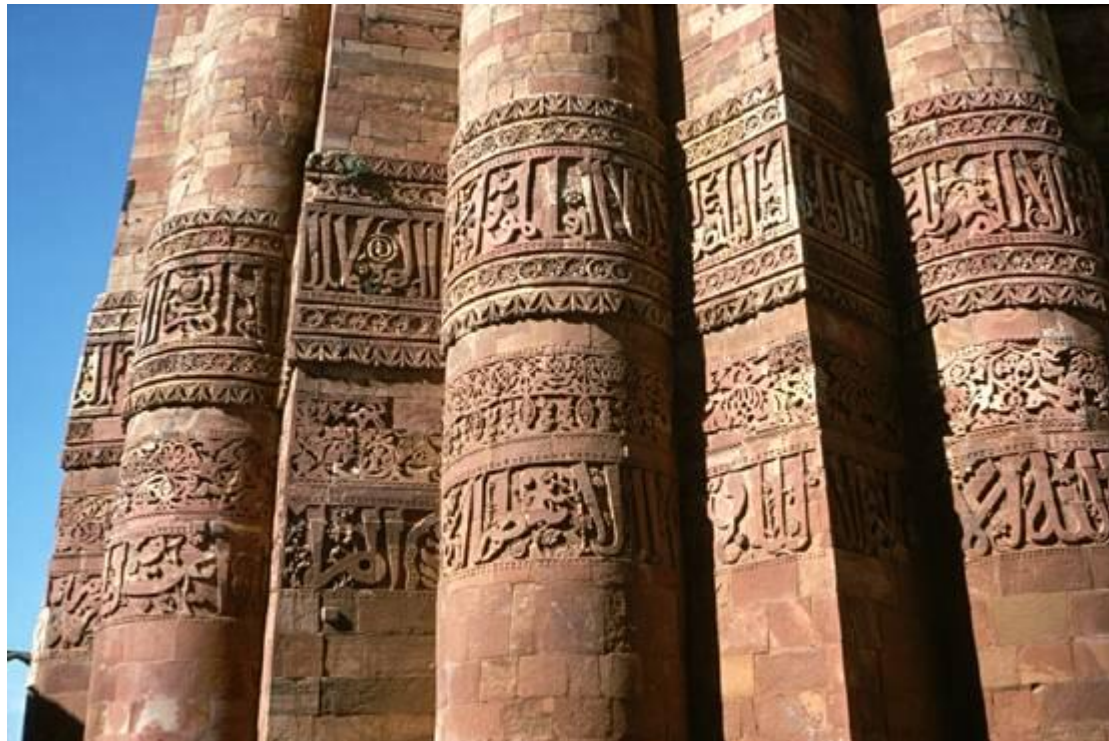
Source of Islam

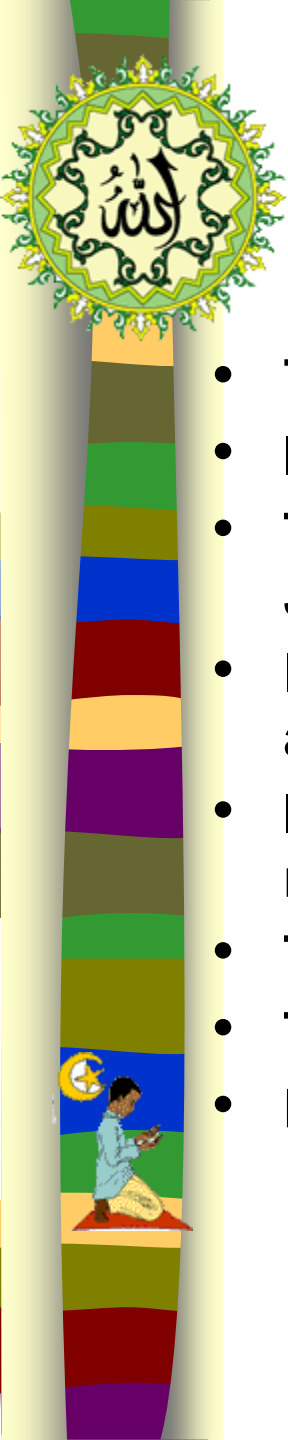
The main sources of Islamic Law are the Quran and the “Sunnah”



The Qur'an

The inscription on buildings of verses from the Qur'an symbolizes the living presence of the holy book in Islamic society.





The Holy Quran

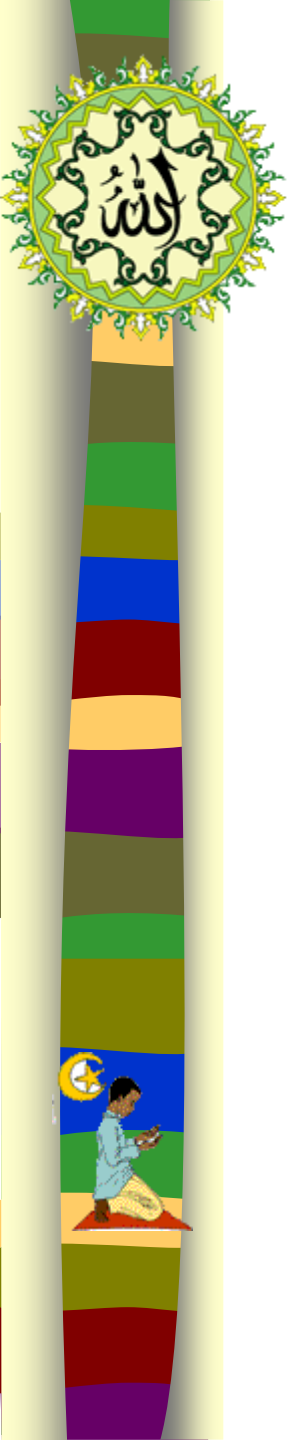
- The Quran is the exact word of Allah “God”.
- Its authenticity, originality and totality are intact.
- The Quran is like the Bible to Christianity, and the Torah to Judaism.
- It is the record of the exact word revealed by Allah “God” and it has been translated into more than 80 languages.
- It was memorized by the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and many of his companions.
- The Quran was revealed over a period of 23 years.
- There is only one version of the Quran.
- Millions of Muslims memorize the Quran by heart.



Muslim Boys Studying the Qur'an

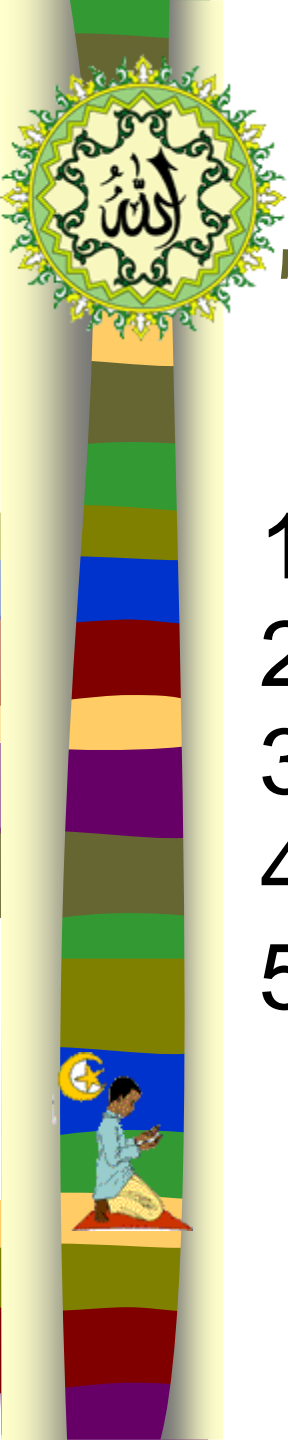
- The Qur'an is at the center of Muslim life. Muslims recite verses from it in their daily prayers and at important public and private events.
- Before touching the holy book, Muslims follow rituals for purification, including washing and preparing the mind, body, and spirit.
- Care must be taken that the Qur'an does not come into contact with any unclean substance, and it is never to be laid upon the ground.





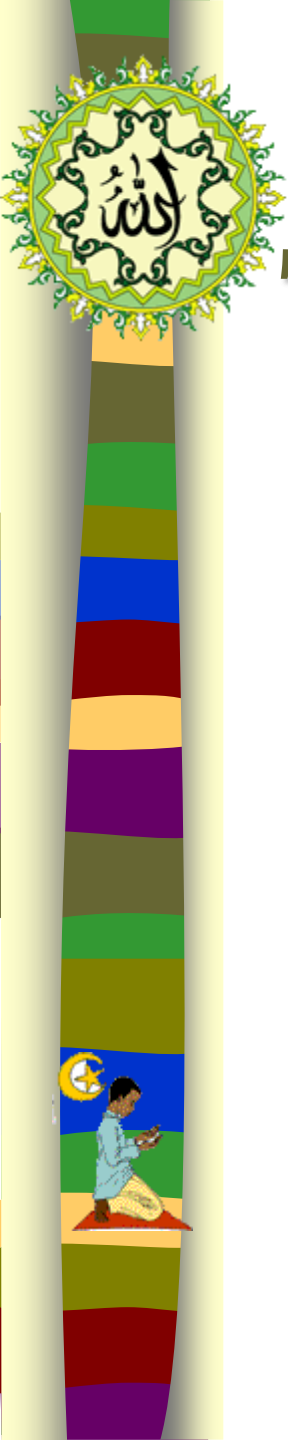
The “Sunnah”

- The “Sunnah” is the record of the sayings, deeds and approval of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).
- After the Quran, “Sunnah” is the second source of teachings within Islam.
- The sayings of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is referred to as the “Hadith”.
- The “Hadith” have been collected in many authentic books by Muslim Scholars.



The Five Pillars of Islam

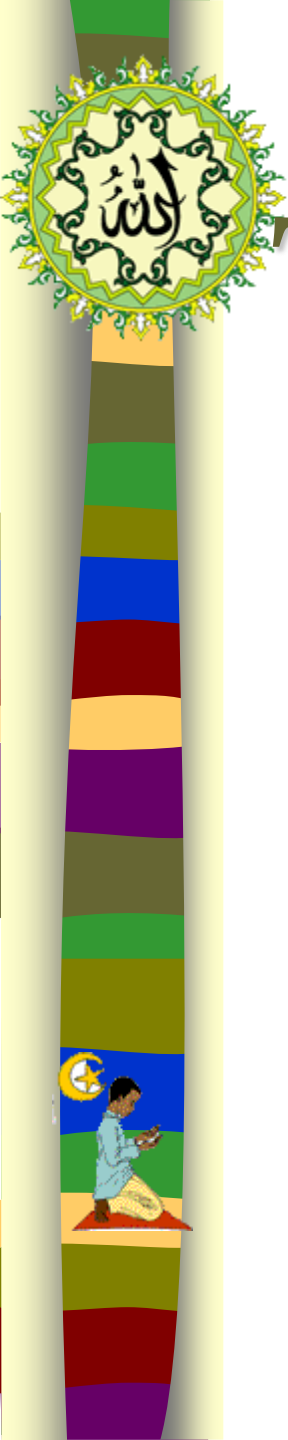
1. Declaration of Faith
2. Prayer
3. Fasting
4. Giving Alms (to the poor)
5. Pilgrimage



The Five Pillars of Islam

1. Declaration of Faith

- *“There is no God but Allah “God” and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah “God”*



The Five Pillars of Islam

2. Prayers - Salat

- Muslims Perform Five compulsory prayers each day.
- The Prayer is a direct link between the Muslim and Allah “God”.
- Islam has no hierarchical authority or priesthood.



Prayer (Salah)



The five daily prayers are:

- **Fajr (from early twilight till just before sunrise)**
- **Zuhr (after the zenith of the sun till mid afternoon)**
- **Asr (between mid and late afternoon)**
- **Maghrib (shortly after sunset)**
- **'Isha (during night-time and before the next morning's twilight)**

There are additional voluntary prayers as well as prayers for special occasions





Prayer: The Mosque

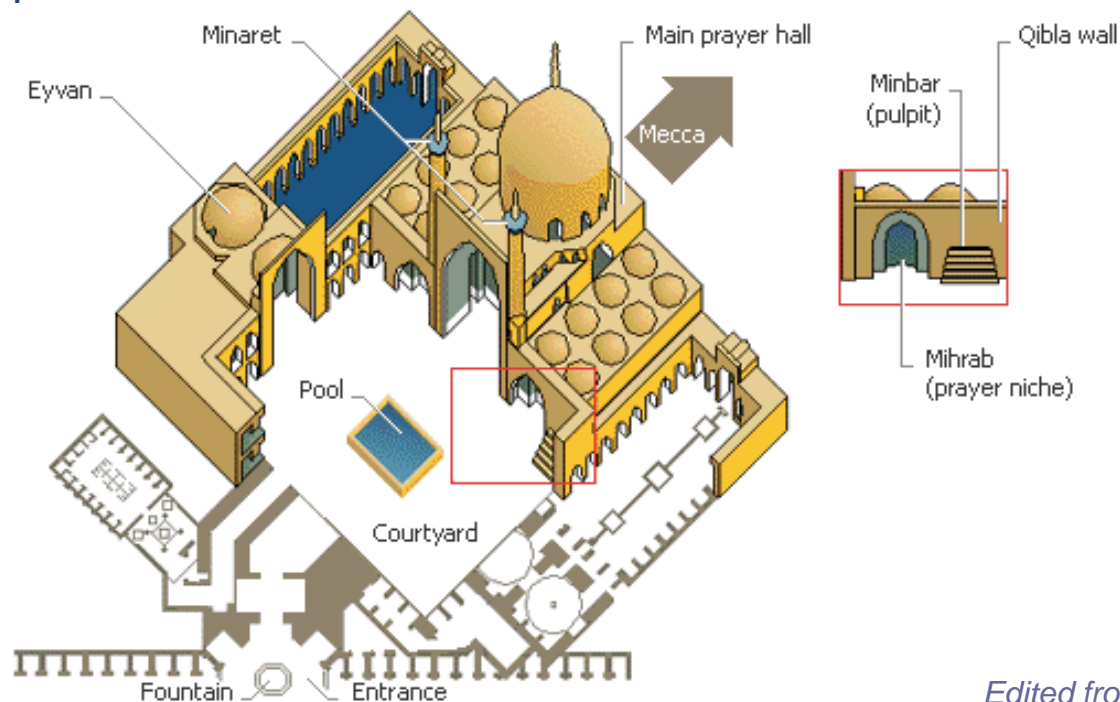
- Mosques do not contain statues or images
- Calligraphy and arabesque geometric designs beautify the mosque interior
- There are no seats and no reserved places
- Worshippers remove their shoes before entry
- Washing facilities are attached to the mosque
- The mosque also serves as a cultural centre





Layout of a Mosque

Mosques are laid out in accordance with Muslim prayer. They are generally organized around a courtyard, a reminder of the courtyard of Muhammad's house, which served as the first mosque. Muslims pray facing the holy city of Mecca, a direction known as the *qibla*. A *mihrab*, or prayer niche, indicates the qibla, and the main prayer hall stands on the qibla side. Worshipers, called to prayer by a crier from the minaret, may hear a sermon delivered from the *mimbar* near the mihrab. A mosque that has a vaulted hall, or *eyvan* on each side of its courtyard, as this mosque does, is known as a four-eyvan mosque.

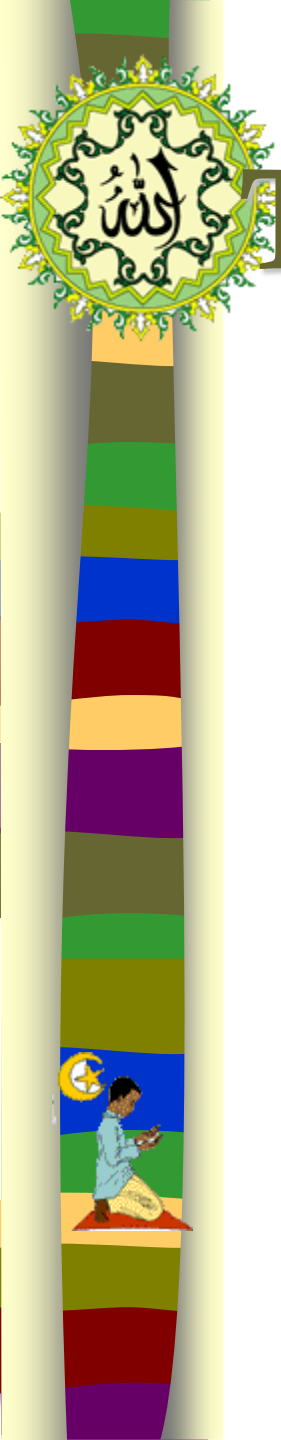




Minaret of the Great Mosque at Sāmarrā'

This spiral minaret, where the *muezzin* once called the faithful to prayer, is the only surviving feature of the Great Mosque at Sāmarrā', Iraq. At the time of its construction (848-852), the Great Mosque at Sāmarrā' was the largest Islamic mosque in the world.





The Five Pillars of Islam

3. Fasting - Sawm

- Fasting has been prescribed for Muslims as well the people before Islam.
- Muslims fast the whole month of Ramadan which is the 9th month of their lunar calendar.
- Fasting starts from dawn to sunset during the entire month of Ramadan.
- Fasting is a total abstinence from food, drinks and sexual intercourse (between married couples).



Last Day of Ramadan

Muslims pray in the upper gallery of a main mosque in the old walled city of Delhi, India. They are celebrating the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting as ordained by the Qur'an, the sacred scriptures of Islam.

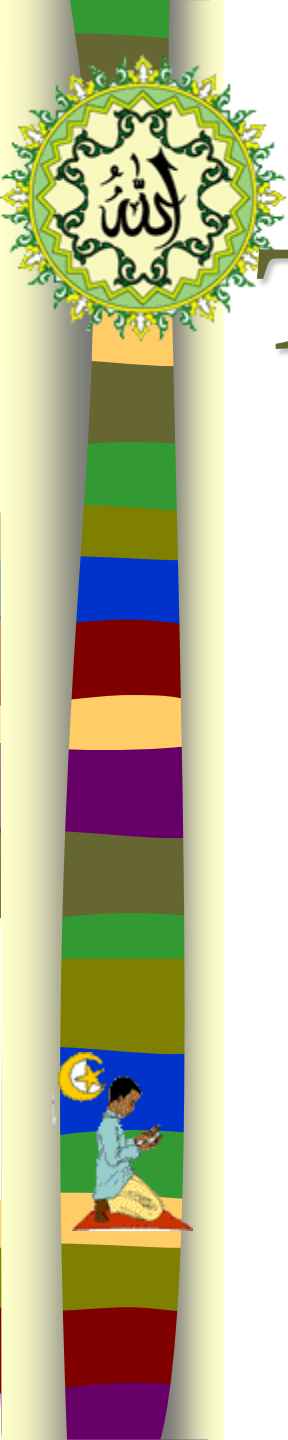




Festivities Ending Ramadan

Members of the Tarabin Bedouin tribe in Egypt prepare food for a three-day festival that marks the end of the Islamic holy month, Ramadan. During Ramadan adult Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.





The Five Pillars of Islam

4. Alms- Zakat

- Zakat means both purification and growth.
- It is a mandatory charity (2.5% of net worth)
- It is one of the most important principles of Islam.

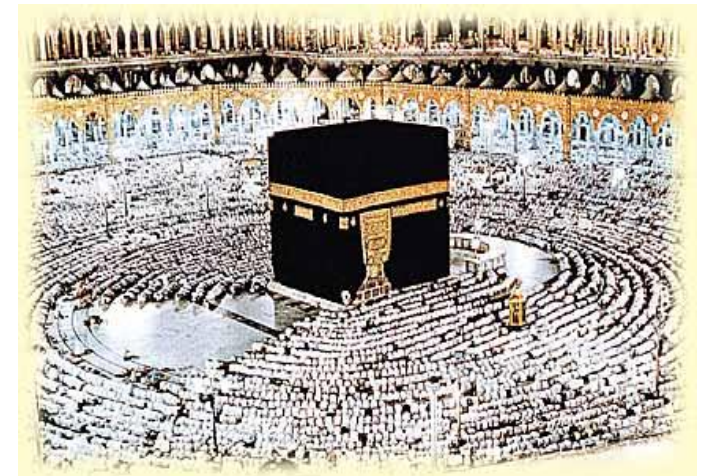


The Five Pillars of Islam

5. Pilgrimage - Hajj



- Hajj is the performance of Pilgrimage to Mecca
- It is required once in a lifetime for those who have the means (physical and financial).
- Every year more than 2.5 Million Muslims perform this pilgrimage.





Pilgrimage to the Kaaba

- Muslims consider the Kaaba — a small sanctuary near the center of the Great Mosque in Mecca — to be the most sacred spot on earth.
- Muslim legend teaches that the ancient religious patriarchs Abraham and Ishmael built the shrine using foundations first laid by Adam.
- Muslims all over the world face toward the Kaaba while praying

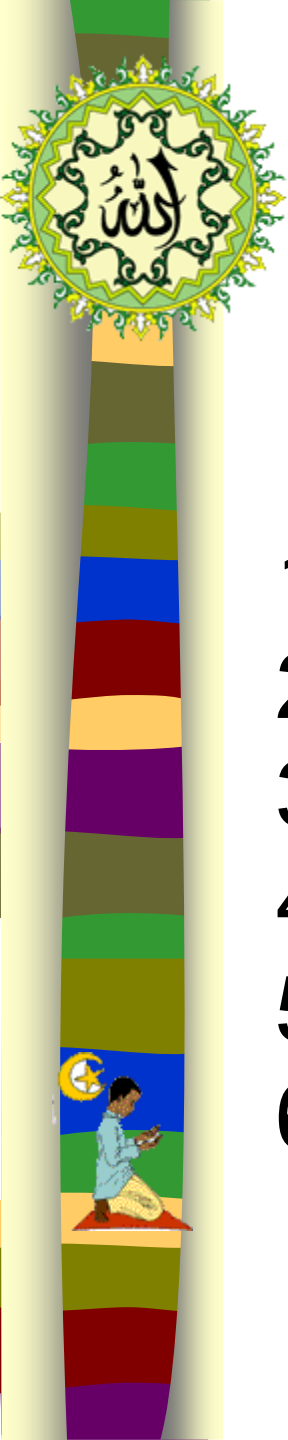




Mecca, Saudi Arabia

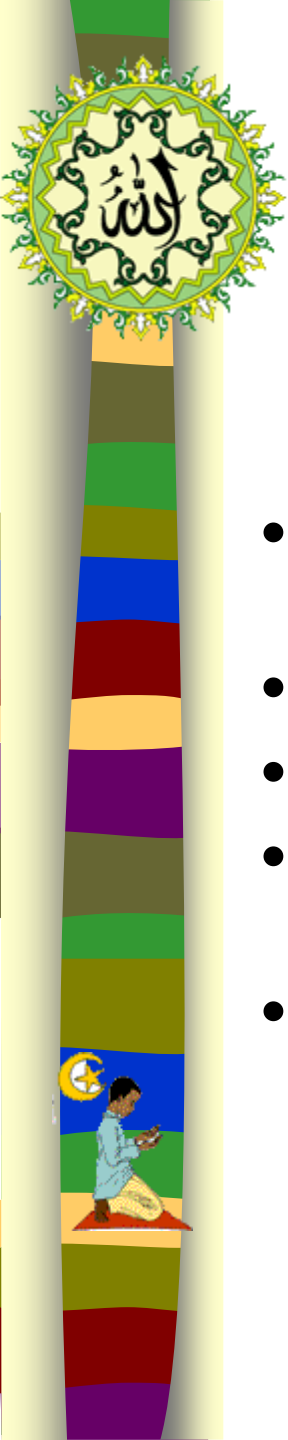
- The al-Haram Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, holds the holiest shrine of Islam, the *Kaaba*. As the birthplace of Islam's founder, the Prophet Muhammad, Mecca is considered a holy city.
- The actual structure of the Kaaba has been demolished and rebuilt several times in the course of its history.
- Around the Kaaba is a restricted area, haram, extending in some directions as far as 12 miles, into which only Muslims may enter.





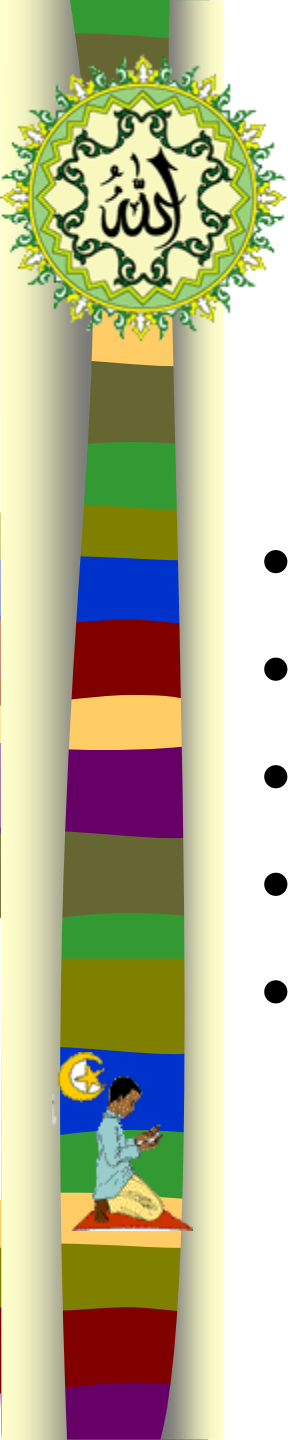
The Six Articles of Faith

1. Belief in One God
2. Belief in Angels
3. Belief in ALL the prophets
4. Belief in ALL the books revealed by God
5. Belief in the Day of Judgment
6. Predestination



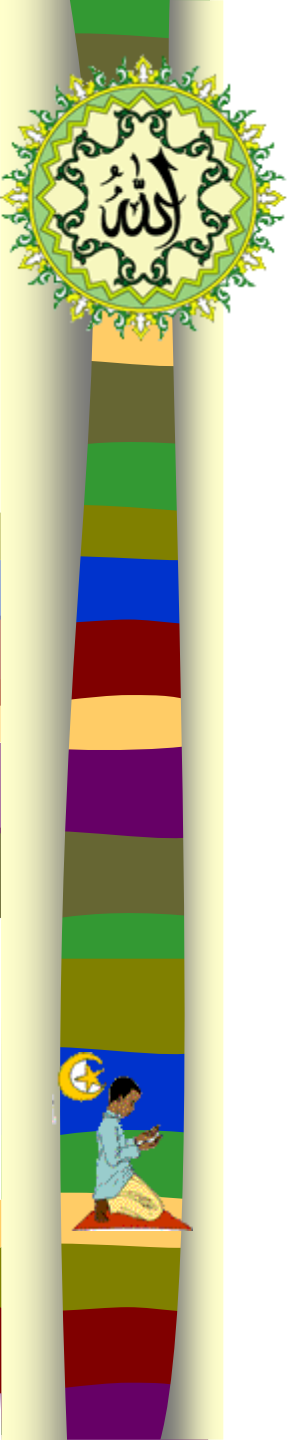
Some Principles of Islam

- Oneness of Mankind
 - All people are created Equal
- Oneness of Messengers and the Message
- Innocence of Man at Birth
- In Islam there is no compulsion in religion
 - Islam prescribes moderation
- State and Religion
 - Islam is the complete way of life
 - State and Religion are not separate in an Islamic State



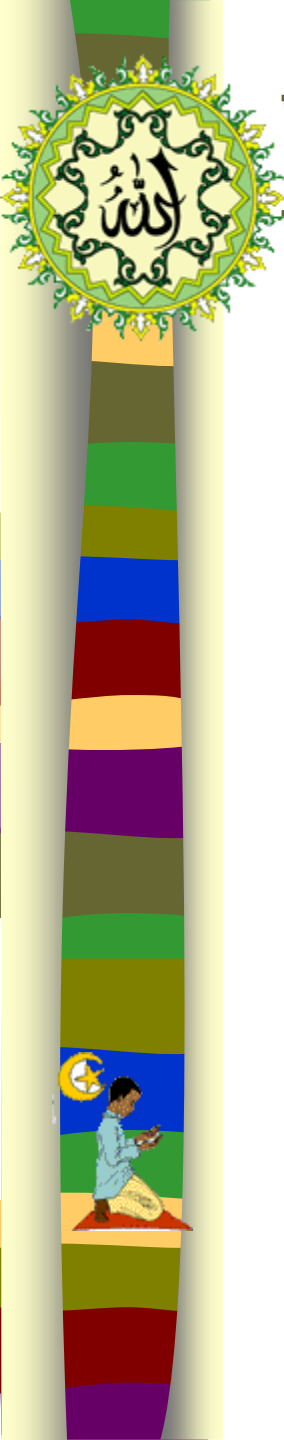
Some Principles of Islam

- Family Values
- The Rights of Neighbors
- The Rights of the Community
- Muslim Etiquette
- The Human Rights



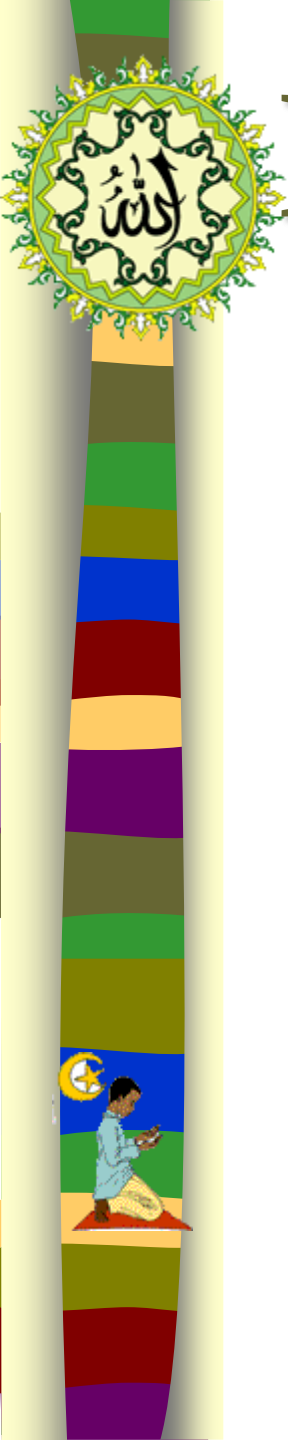
Islam And Women

- Islam gives the highest respect to women in the society.
- Muslim Women cover their heads by Scarves called “Hijab”
- The Islamic rules for modest dress apply to Women and Men Equally.
- The Virgin Mary used to wear head cover and modest clothes
- The Women in Islam are entitled to education, owning businesses, inheritance, work and all other rights including the right to vote



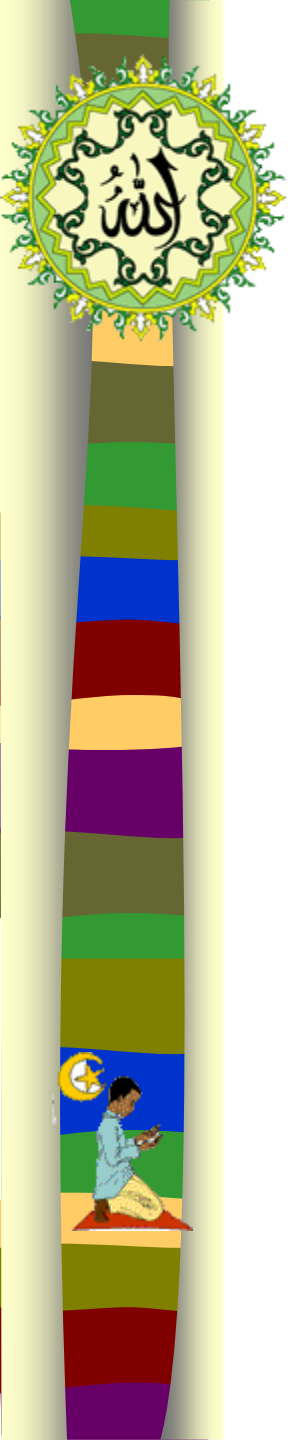
Islam And Women

- Islam assures the Financial Security of Women
 - Dowry and all Wedding Expenses are the responsibility of the husband
 - During the Marriage the husband is responsible for the financial obligations of the family
 - The husband is responsible for Child Support during marriage and after divorce



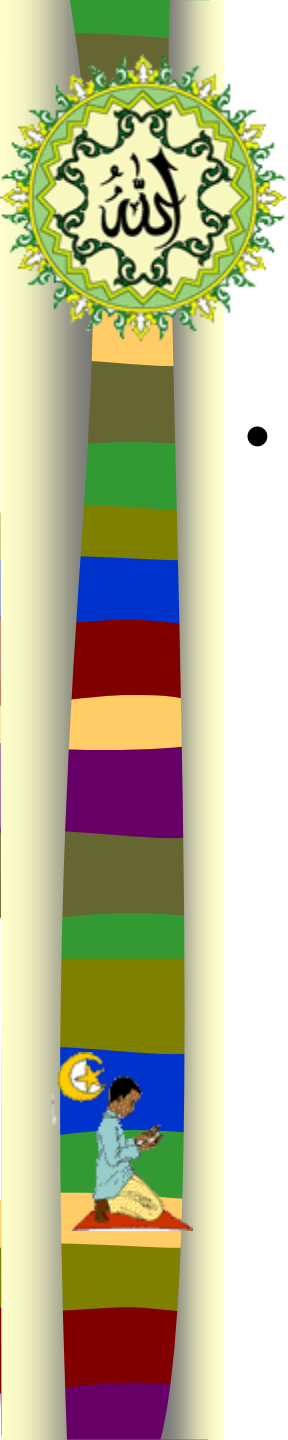
Islam And Women

- Muslim Women are playing an active role in the homes and the society
- Muslim women can be highly respected scholars
- There is a whole chapter in the Quran by the name “The Women”
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is quoted as saying “Heaven is at the feet of the Mother”



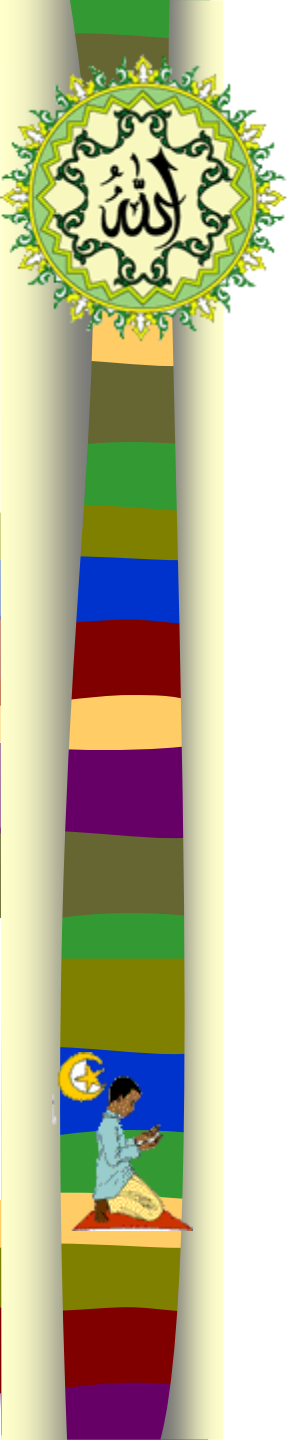
Jihad in Islam

- Jihad does not mean Holy War
- The Word “Jihad” means to Struggle or strive
- Levels of Jihad
 - Struggle to improve yourself
 - Struggle against evil in the society
 - Struggle in battlefield
- Valid reasons for Jihad in the battlefield
 - Self Defense
 - To remove human tyranny, oppression and persecution



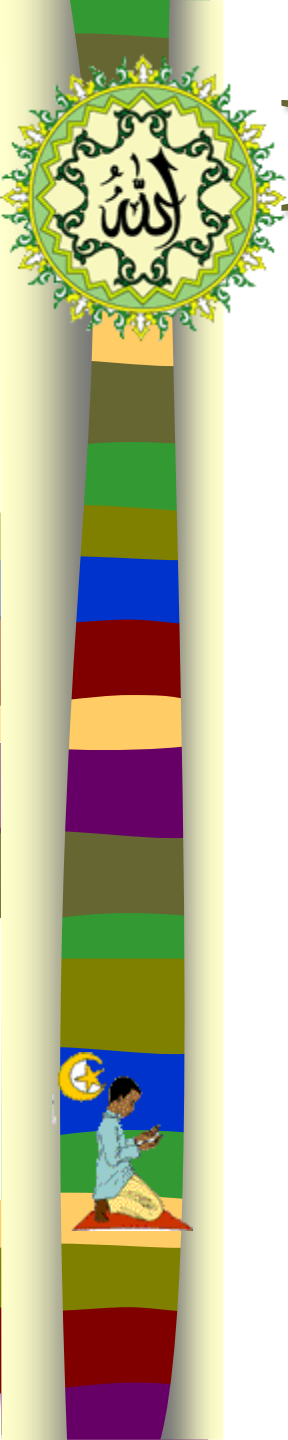
Jihad in Islam

- **Etiquette of Jihad**
 - **Seek your protection.**
 - **Give Peace a Chance Before Battle Starts**
 - **Respect All Treaties**
 - **Declaration of War when attacked**
 - **Spare those who are not fighting against you**
 - **Women**
 - **Children**
 - **Old men**
 - **Religious persons**



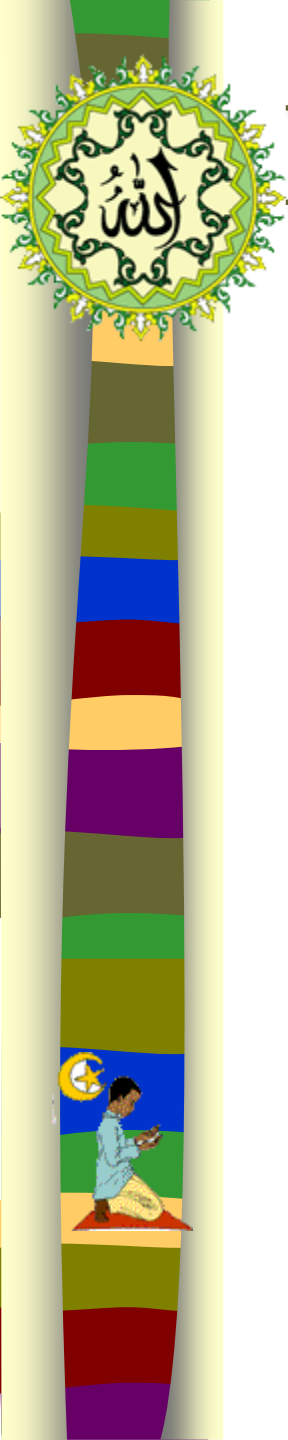
Jihad in Islam

- Prohibited from ...
 - Killing Animals
 - Destroying Farms
 - Destroying Infrastructure
- Never Kill the Innocent or Injured
- Never hurt the Prisoners of War
 - This is in 7th Century long before the Geneva Convention
 - Prisoners of War given very good treatment
 - Never Mutilate the bodies
 - Allow the dead to be buried in dignity



Islam and Terrorism

- **Islam does not support terrorism under any circumstances**
- **Terrorism goes against every principle of Islam**
- **If a Muslim engages in terrorism s/he is not following Islam**



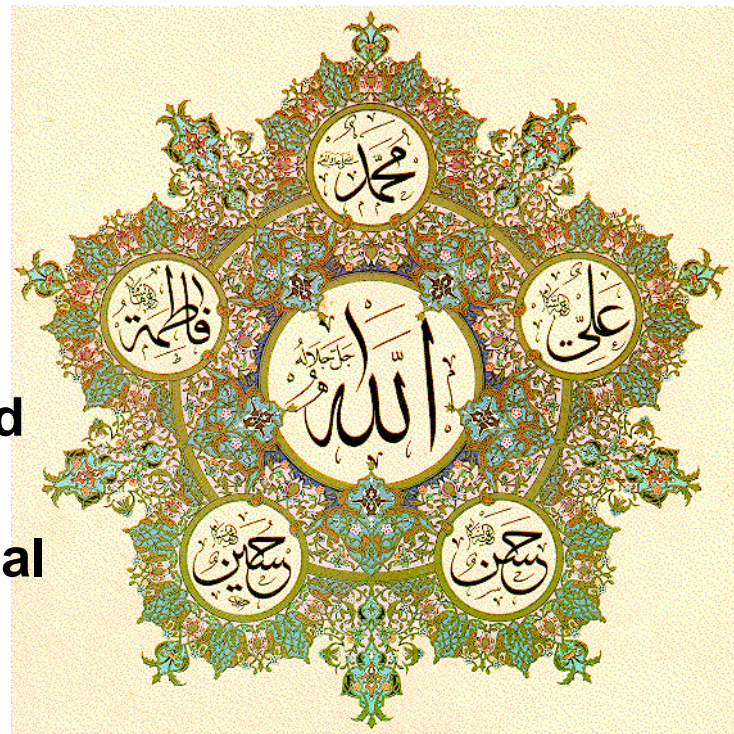
Islam And Other Beliefs

- Islam respects other beliefs, particularly, Christianity & Judaism, who worship the same God.
- Jesus was one of the Prophets
- The Quran and Sunnah advocate dealing justly with the non Muslims.
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized protection of the ‘people of the Book’ in the Muslim Community

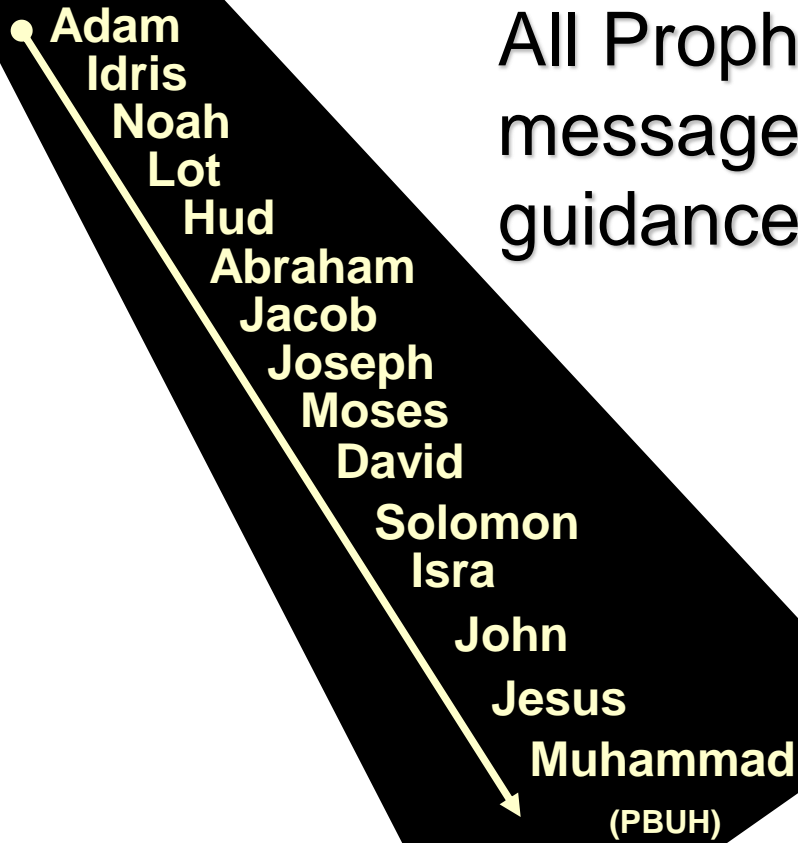


Belief: The Hereafter

- Life is part of a journey from God back to God
- Life has a purpose; we are on trial with regard to our behaviour
- The soul is eternal and will be raised again
- Perfect justice does not exist on earth; full justice can only be achieved in the Hereafter
- Nobody will escape accountability



Chain of the Prophets



All Prophets came with the same message and taught the same guidance

Muslims believe in all the Prophet without making any discrimination among them. They are all equally loved and respected

Prophets are sent as mercy to human kind to take them out of darkness and to bring them to light

