

WELCOME TO

# ISLAM

A SHORT INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION



مركز الأوسول  
Osoul Center  
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# ISLAM: A SHORT INTRODUCTION

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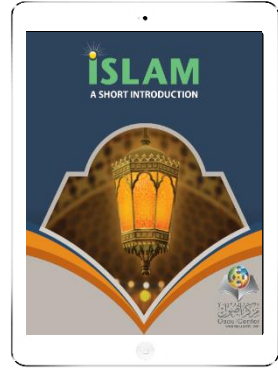
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## ABOUT THIS BOOK



“This book in particular, entitled “Islam - A Brief Introduction”, shares with non-Muslims the essence of Islam and its core messages. It focuses on addressing the common misconceptions about this religion in a calm and organized tone.

It gathers together a large number of references from various sources to achieve this end successfully.”

**Basil Al-Fawzan** / Director General  
Osoul Global Center

# THE BEAUTY OF 'ISLAM'?



GuideToIslam.com



**Nazism**



**Communism**



THE POOR OR THE EXPLOITATION  
OF THE RESOURCES  
OF OTHER NATIONS





# INTRODUCTION

Islam is a mystery to most Westerners and non-Muslims



Imagine that there are 1.6 billion people in the world who follow one of the world's largest religions that you may never have studied in school. It includes among its adherents different races and peoples of Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Americas and has contributed to Western thought and culture for over a thousand years.

Open almost any newspaper, turn on the radio or television, and there will be stories about Islam. Sadly, many of these stories will be accompanied by images of violence. The vision of Islam emerging from these images is one of brutality, hatred, disorder, and fanaticism. This image of 'militant Islam' lies at odds with a faith that most Muslims— about 23% of world population - adhere to.

The word **Islam** itself is closely related to **salaam**, the word for "peace." The universal Muslim greeting is **as salaamu 'alaikum**— "peace be on you!" Islam is a peaceful religion with teachings that cover every area of life. Islam is a way of life that millions of people consult in their daily affairs. It answers fundamental human questions such as why are we here, who is God, what kind of life should a person lead, and what happens to us after we die? It also has its own program for improving the heart, mind, and spirit.



The purpose of this book is to give a brief account of what the faith of Islam teaches, not of how some Muslims behave. In Islam, like other religions, there are differences between what the believers are taught by their faith and what many actually think and do.



# A WORD ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS PRESENTATION

It is divided into six parts:

## PART 1

Discusses the basic beliefs and practices, in particular the Six Articles of Faith and the Five “Pillars” of Islam.

## PART 2

Delves into belief in God and the Last Day in a little more detail.

## PART 3

Discusses the key events in the life of Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of Islam.

## PART 4

Explains the two major sources of Islam – the Quran and the Sunna.

## PART 5

Is dedicated to Islamic values and the contribution made to the world by the Islamic civilization.

## PART 6

Is about women, one of the most misunderstood aspects of the faith.

We hope that the book will give a glimpse into the beauty of Islam and encourage the reader to explore this faith in more detail.

WELCOME TO

# ISLAM

A SHORT INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION



1



# PART ONE: BASIC BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Discusses the basic beliefs and practices, in particular the six articles of faith and the five “pillars” of islam.

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# MEANING OF THE WORD 'ISLAM'

The Arabic word 'Islam' means 'peaceful worship and submission to the One God.'

A person who believes in and practices Islam is known as a 'Muslim.' Islam brings a person into a relationship with God based on love, fear, submission, and hope.



Islam is not a new teaching, but a continuation of the Truth that was brought in the past by Moses, Jesus, and other great prophets. Islam did not begin with Muhammad ﷺ, rather it is the same pure message taught by previous prophets but was altered and changed by human interference.

In other words, 'Islam' in the time of Moses was to believe and worship God alone and to follow the Prophet Moses. 'Islam' in the time of Jesus was to believe and worship God alone and to follow the true teachings of Jesus. 'Islam' after the coming of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is to believe and worship the same God, but to follow the last and final prophet, Muhammad, peace be on them all.







# THE '6 ARTICLES' OF FAITH

Muslims share a common set of basic beliefs known as "Articles of Faith":

## Belief In Destiny

Muslims believe everything happens with the full knowledge and permission of God since He is the Sustainer of all life. God does not force us, though, as our choices are known to Him beforehand because His knowledge of future is complete. This recognition helps a Muslim through difficulties and hardships.

## Belief In Day Of Judgment

Life does not end with death. Islam teaches that this world and the human race will come to an end at an appointed day. At that time, God will bring every person back to life from the dead. God will show mercy and fairness in judgment.

## Belief In Prophets Of God

Muslims believe that God communicates with us through human prophets that were sent to all races and peoples at different times. Their main message was always that there is only One true God and that He alone deserves to be prayed to and worshipped..

06

01

## Belief In One God

The most important teaching of Islam is that only God is to be served and worshipped. In fact, it is the only sin that God will not forgive if a person dies without repenting from it.

## Belief In Angels

Muslims believe that angels watch over mankind and that every human has them as constant companions. They keep a record of everyone's good and bad deeds. Not a word is uttered without it being registered by them.

02

## Belief In Revealed Books

Muslims believe that God revealed His wisdom and instructions through 'books' to some of the prophets. God revealed the Psalms to David, the Torah to Moses, and the Gospel to Jesus. "Quran" is God's final revelation that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

03

04

05





# THE '6 ARTICLES' OF FAITH

Muslims share a common set of basic beliefs known as "Articles of Faith":

1 The most important teaching of Islam is that only God is to be served and worshipped. Also, the biggest sin in Islam is to direct worship to other objects or beings, either in association with God or towards them entirely. In fact, it is the only sin that God will not forgive if a person dies without repenting from it.

1

Belief In One God

2 God has created beings from light called angels. What do angels do? Basically, they bring messages, more broadly, they carry out God's commands in nature and the universe. Muslims also believe that angels watch over mankind and that every human has them as constant companions. They keep a record of everyone's good and bad deeds. Not a word is uttered without it being registered by them.

2

Belief In Angels

3 Muslims believe that God revealed His wisdom and instructions through 'books' to some of the prophets. God revealed the Psalms to David, the Torah to Moses, and the Gospel to Jesus. Over time, however, the original teachings of these books got changed or lost. Muslims believe that the "Quran" (also spelled 'Koran') is God's final revelation that was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The Quran has been fully preserved in its original language, Arabic.

3

Belief In Revealed Books





4

### Belief In Prophets Of God

- Muslims believe that God communicates with us through human prophets that were sent to all races and peoples at different times. The line of prophets started with Adam and includes Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. The series ended with prophet Muhammad ﷺ, peace be upon them all. Every prophet brought the same truth from the same source, therefore we honor and believe in all of them. Their main message was always that there is only One true God and that He alone deserves to be prayed to and worshipped. Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet of God like prophets before him, he was not the son of God as Muslims believe that God has no children.



5

### Belief In Day Of Judgment

- Life does not end with death. Islam teaches that this world and the human race will come to an end at an appointed day. At that time, God will bring every person back to life from the dead. He will examine each person's life and will judge every soul according to two criteria: faith and deeds. It is the balance between the good and bad we have done that will determine our final place. God will show mercy and fairness in judgment. According to Islamic teachings, those who submitted themselves in worship to God and performed good deeds will be rewarded with Paradise. Those who rejected faith in God and cared less for good will be punished in Hell.



6

### Belief In Destiny

- Muslims believe that nothing in our life happens by pure chance. Everything happens with the full knowledge and permission of God since He is the Sustainer of all life. This belief does not contradict the idea of free will. God does not force us, though, as our choices are known to Him beforehand because His knowledge of future is complete. Thus, He knows what we will do. This recognition helps a Muslim through difficulties and hardships.

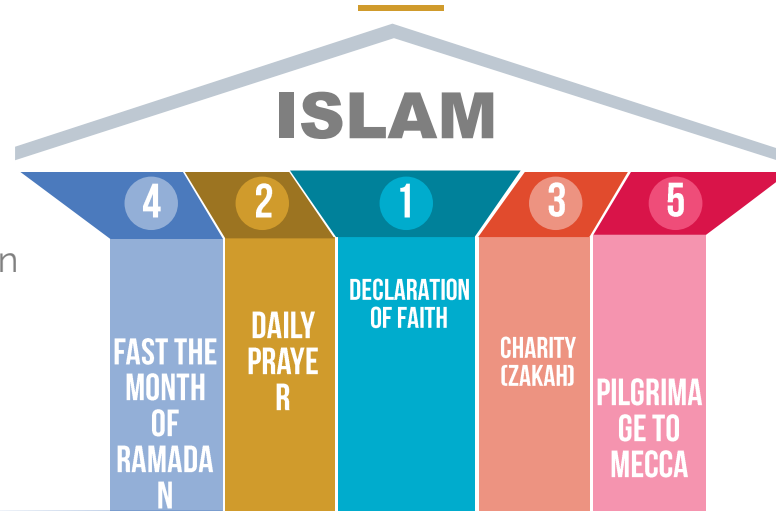






# THE '5 PILLARS' OF FAITH

A pillar is a support, something that holds up a structure.



**ISLAM** is like a **house** built on a rock of submission and supported by these five 'pillars' or fundamental practices.

Muslims who are able to do so are commanded to fast one month every year from dawn to sunset. This period of intense spiritual devotion is known as the fast of Ramadan in which no food, drink, sex, arguing, or fighting is allowed.

Prayers are central to Muslim life, providing spiritual strength and peace of mind. It is a direct link connecting a Muslim with God, performed five times a day.

Entrance into Islam begins with reciting a simple statement: "None deserves worship except God (Allah), and Muhammad is His Messenger (Prophet) of God"

Zakat is a charity required of every Muslim who has sufficient means to pay it. The annual charity is seen as purification of one's wealth.

The implication is that everything else depends upon them. They are: **declaration of faith**, **prayer**, **fasting**, **charity**, and **pilgrimage**.

All Muslims are required to make pilgrimage to Mecca (located in Saudi Arabia) if they can afford to do so. The Ka'ba, a black cube at the heart of Mecca, is the most sacred place in Islam and was built by Prophet Abraham and his son, Ishmael.





# WHY DO MUSLIMS FAST RAMADAN?

Many people ask why Muslims fast in the month of Ramadan, and what is special about this month. Why is their fasting so hard that they abstain from food, drink and sex from dawn to dusk, for a whole month?



**This video answers all these questions,**

explaining the purpose of fasting, and how the Islamic fast is different from fasting in other religions.

**FASTING** is a good way of expressing our gratitude for God's favours, stay away from every forbidden thing and overcome desire. It enhances feelings of compassion towards the poor, trains us to be alert in obeying God, and to rise above the temptations that life may present.



Why do Muslims fast Ramadan?



# 10 REASONS TO BE A MUSLIM

## WHY ARE YOU A MUSLIM?

This video gives ten reasons that serve to answer an important question that may be asked of any of us: why are you a Muslim? These are simple but important reasons. Islam provides answers to important questions, such as: who created the universe? Why have we come into existence? What is the purpose of life? What happens after death?

5

Every little detail is included.

The right path of happiness  
FOR SMARTS

The complete guide to live the life that god wants

ference the of Us!

ator of

Love and marriage

Food and drinks

Politics

Economy

Sports and games

Daily Activities

DocuIntern@The Centre





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# PART TWO: GOD AND THE LAST DAY

This part delves into belief in God and the Last Day in a little more detail.

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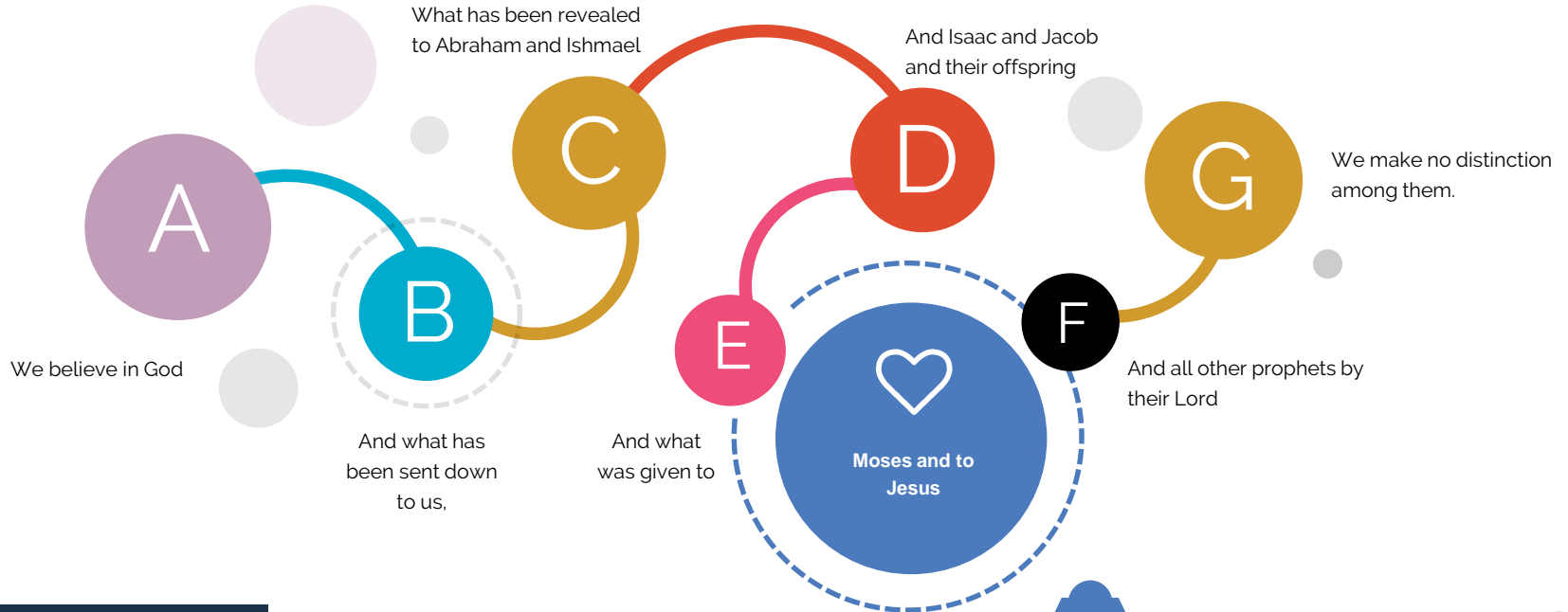
# GOD



The Word for God in the Arabic language is 'Allah.' Allah is not just their God, but He is the Lord of the entire universe.

One of the greatest misconceptions about Islam has to do with the Arabic name of God. Some non-Muslims assume that 'Allah' is a God other than the God of Judaism or Christianity.

Interestingly, Arabic speaking Jews and Christians use the word 'Allah' to refer to God. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all believe in the same Creator and their roots go back to Prophet Abraham.



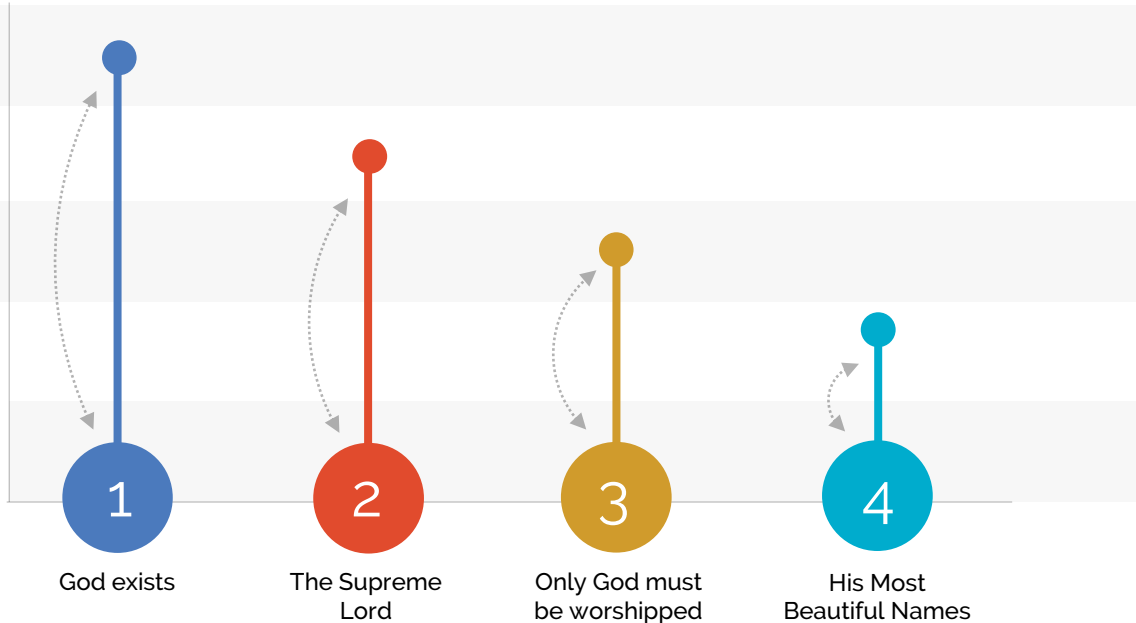
# FAITH IN GOD

In Islam, Faith In God Consists Of Four Matters



'The disbelievers say, 'The Lord of Mercy has a son.' This is certainly a monstrous lie! It almost causes the heavens to be torn apart, the earth to split asunder, the mountains to crumble to pieces, That they attribute offspring to the Lord of Mercy.

- 1 God exists
- 2 God is the Supreme Lord
- 3 Only God must be worshipped
- 4 We know God by His Most Beautiful Names and Attributes





# FAITH IN GOD

In Islam, Faith In God Consists Of Four Matters



In Islam, Allah is neither male nor female, but the Creator of both genders.

## 1 God's Existence

God is real and His existence is true. God's existence is recognized by the innate nature of every human being. From a castle one learns of the castle-maker, from the universe one learns of its Creator. God's existence is also known by answers to prayers, miracles of prophets and the books God revealed. Neither is God part of His creation, nor does He dwell in it. He is separate and above what He has created.

1

God exists





# FAITH IN GOD

In Islam, Faith In God Consists Of Four Matters



God the 'Ruler' of human beings. Just like the physical world submits to its Lord, human beings must submit to the teaching of their Lord.

2

God is the Supreme Lord

God is the sole Lord and Ruler of the world. He has no sons or wife. He does not sleep or get tired. He is unique, everlasting, powerful, and eternal. God is the 'Lord' means that He is the Creator, Controller, and Owner of the universe. God is the King and the Savior, a Living God, a Loving God, full of wisdom. The kingdom of the heavens and the earth belong exclusively to Him. Angels, prophets, and human beings are under His control.

"Is He not closer than the vein of your neck? You need not raise your voice, For he knows the secret whisper, And what is yet more hidden"

2







# FAITH IN GOD

In Islam, Faith In God Consists Of Four Matters

الْعِظْمَرُ

Human beings are weak and prone to sin, but God is willing to forgive. The Prophet Muhammad said, «God's mercy out- weighs His wrath.»

The most fundamental teaching and core of Islam and the purpose of our creation is to worship and serve God. God must be worshipped by one's heart and limbs. No one can be worshipped apart from Him, no one can be worshipped with Him. He has no son, daughter, helper, partner or associate in worship. Worship, in its comprehensive sense, is for God alone. A person becomes Muslim by testifying to God's right to be worshipped. It was the central message of all prophets of God.

3

Only God must be worshipped

3

Only God must be worshipped





# FAITH IN GOD

In Islam, Faith In God Consists Of Four Matters

All chapters of the Quran (the Muslim scripture), except one, begin with the phrase, "In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate."

We cannot see God in this life and Islam does not allow making statues or pictures of God. So, how do we know Him? We know God by His Names and Attributes that describe Him. More than nine-nine beautiful Names and many more Attributes come to us from the Quran and the teachings of His Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ.

**"And the Most Beautiful Names belong to God, so call on Him by them".**

Two of the most frequently used Names of God are, "the Most Merciful." (Ar-Rahman in Arabic) and "the Most Compassionate" (Ar-Raheem in Arabic).



4

God's Most Beautiful Names and Attributes

4

His Most Beautiful Names and Attributes



# WHY DO I SURRENDER TO 'ALLAH'?





# THE LSAT DAY

One thing is certain in this life, and that is death

Not only does Islam explain what the purpose of life is, but it also speaks clearly about life after death and how this life and the next one are related.

Our duration on this earth is short and temporary. The end of this life is the beginning of another one that will last forever. That is why it is called the 'Last Day.' The universe will come to an end on that day. Everything will be annihilated.

**The Quran describes the Day of Resurrection as follows:**

**Everyone will stand to be judged by a Fair, Just, and Merciful God about the choices they made in this life.**

- Those who were good will be admitted into Paradise.
- Those who rejected faith and did evil, will be punished in Hell

- 1 "When the sky bursts open,
- 2 When planets are dispersed,
- 3 When the seas spill forth,
- 4 When graves are turned over,

## Then,

each soul will know what it sent forward and what it left behind."

THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAVE BEEN CLEARLY LAID DOWN IN THE QURAN AND BY THE PROPHET OF ISLAM:



# Why a Judgment Day?

## 1) Perfect Justice

S M T W T F S

God will judge between people with perfect justice. God's court will not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or mere verbal affiliation to a religion. No person will be treated unjustly, even as little as a 'seed,' 'Then every soul will be compensated for what it earned, And they will not be treated unjustly.'

## 2) Each On His Own

S M T W T F S

God's justice will judge everyone individually, no one will bear the sins of the other.

'And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another.

Then to your Lord is your return, And He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ.'

## 3) Written Records

S M T W T F S

People will be handed their personal "diary" containing all their deeds, the good and the bad. 'And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], And you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, And they will say, "Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great except that it has enumerated it?" And they will find what they did present [before them].

## 4) Divine Grace

S M T W T F S

The Prophet of Islam informed us, 'God Almighty has divided mercy into one hundred parts. He kept ninety- nine parts and sent down one part to earth. Because of that one single part, creatures are merciful to one another so that even the mare will lift its hooves away from its foal so that it does not trample on it.'





وَاللَّهُ  
عَلِيمٌ  
غَفُورٌ

And He is over all things competent.

# PARADISE

It is a place of peace, with rivers and fruits, sweet smells, goblets of gold, and the shade of God Himself.

A beautiful and wonderful place that awaits those who believe in God, His prophets, and do righteous good deeds. Paradise is not God's residence or a spiritual state of everlasting communion with God as some think. The Quran describes it as a beautiful and wonderful place that awaits those who believe in God, His prophets, and do righteous good deeds.

The Quran tells us that the joys of Paradise are beyond our comprehension:

**“No person knows what delights of the eye  
Are kept hidden in reserve for them,  
As a reward for their good deeds.”**

*Paradise is a spiritual and sensual residence of pleasure in which all one's senses will be gratified to the fullest. It is an abode of manifold enjoyments for the faithful, its dwellers will not feel the least pain or sadness, where every aspiration will be finally realized*

# HELL FIRE

Hell is depicted as a fierce fire that will burn and punish those who are caged in it. It is a place of intense heat and suffering, with boiling water, hot wind, and black smoke

Just as the good will be rewarded for their efforts, those who rejected God and rebelled against His laws will face punishment in the life to come. The Fire of Hell is described to serve as a warning about the consequences of the choices people make in life.

**The Quran says:** “So taste the results of your evil; No increase shall We give you, Except in torment.”

*In Hell people are burned and dragged in chains. They are given boiling water to drink and thorny plants to eat. There is no relief for the punished.*







# DOES GOD EXIST?



This video looks at some of the great signs pointing to God, both in the world at large and within our selves.

These signs should be enough for any rational person to reflect on creation and to arrive at an absolute conclusion that everything in the universe is God's creation. Everything testifies to His limitless power, infinite wisdom and perfect design.

**Everything in our world has its limits.** Does this apply to the universe as a whole? Are atheists right when they claim that the universe manages its own affairs?







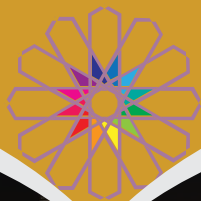
How did the universe come about? Is it created? Does it come to an end?

These and similar questions may have a strong philosophical dimension. God did not wish to leave man in a dilemma. The message of God's oneness started with Adam, the first prophet.

This video shows how man searched for God, and how the followers of different religions worship God. It arrives at the conclusion that God sent all prophets so that mankind will believe in God's oneness.



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# PART THREE: PROPHET MUHAMMAD

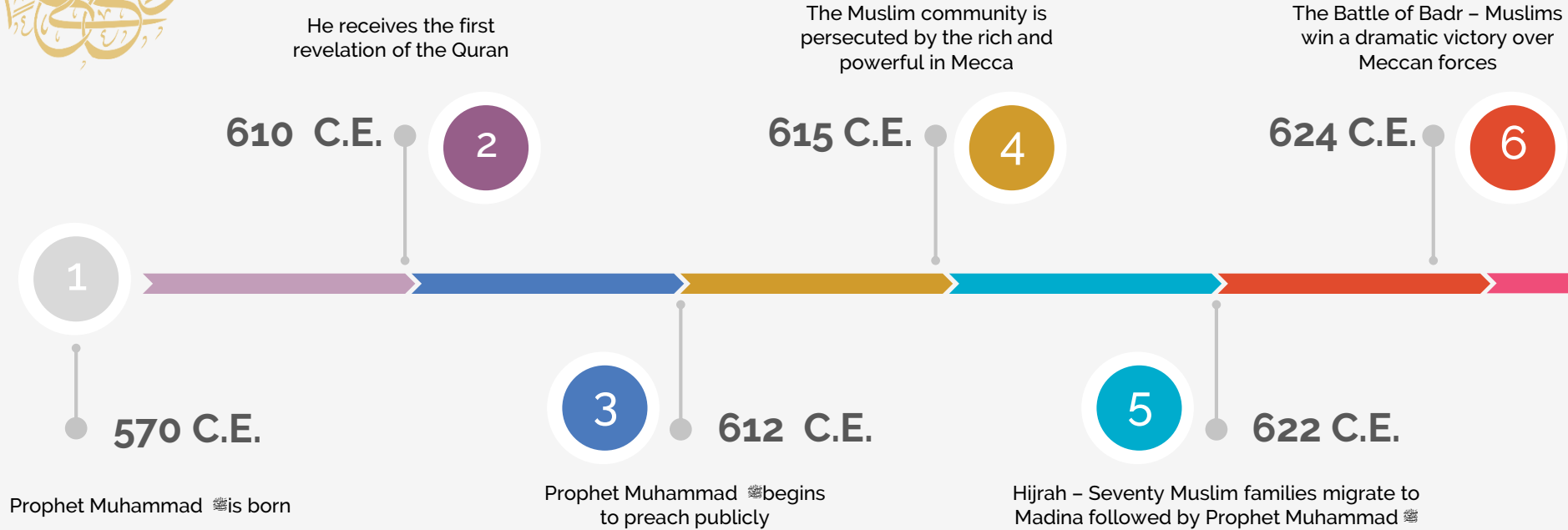
Discusses the key events in the life of Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of Islam.

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# PROPHET 'MUHAMMAD' ﷺ

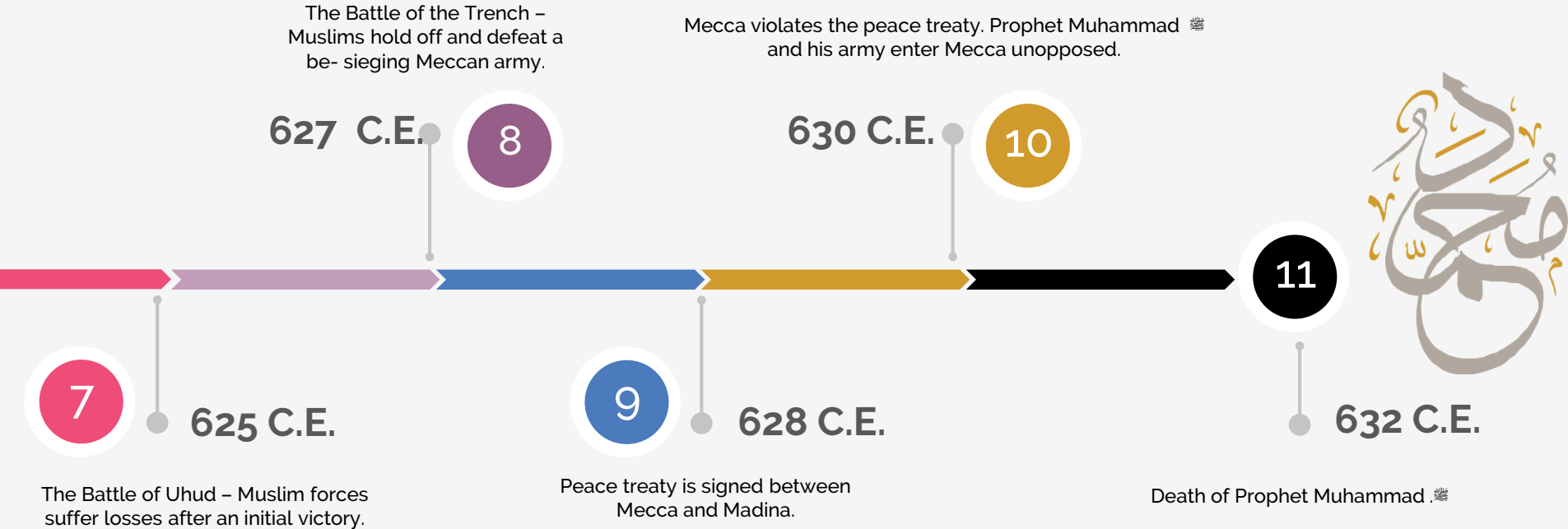
whose name in Arabic means 'the praised one,' was born in the town and commercial center of Mecca which is situated in Saudi Arabia today



# PROPHET 'MUHAMMAD' ﷺ



He was of a certainty a most unique and special man who demonstrated within his own life the virtues of humility, compassion, obedience, and a thirst for justice, and a call for all men to worship the one and only God of all creation...The message of Muhammad was, and remains to this day, a message of peace, mercy, and compassion.\*



\* William W. Baker, former college Professor of Ancient History and Biblical studies, member of Near East Institute of Archaeology and the Oxford Philosophical Society in *More in Common Than You Think*, 1988 Defenders Publications, p.6-7.





# 'MUHAMMAD' ﷺ IN MUSLIMS BELIEF

Muslims believe that:



God send prophets to every civilization and people.  
Some are mentioned in the Quran by name, others are not.

The prophets brought the same message: worship God alone and follow the prophet He send.

That the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was God's final prophet send to all mankind.

He was a descendant of Prophet Ishmael, the son of Prophet Abraham.

He never claimed to be God or have the powers of God.

He did not ask for any special reverence or recognition for himself.

They also believe that his coming was foretold in the Bible in numerous verses, for example:

*"And I will pray the Father« and he shall give you another Comforter« that he may abide with you forever."*

(John 14:16)

*I (God) will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (Moses), and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."*

(Deuteronomy 18:18)



# PROPHET MUHAMMED

- He was the son of a young couple from the tribe of Quraish.
- His father, **Abdullah**, died two months before his birth.
- His mother, **Aamina**, died when he was six years old.
- Both his parents came from a humble, but eminent background.

His grandfather, **Abdul-Muttalib**, was the virtual head of the Meccan commonwealth and the custodian of the Ka'ba, the cube-shaped building in Mecca built by Prophet **Abraham** for the worship of God. Upon the death of his grandfather,

Muhammad ﷺ was adopted by his uncle, Abu Talib who was a generous and gentle man, but was not rich.

The young Muhammad ﷺ had to earn his own livelihood.

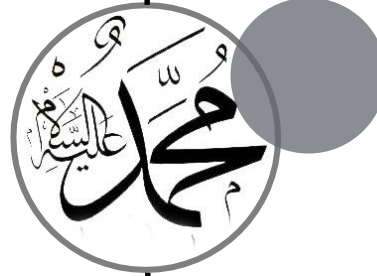
He first served as a shepherd, then as an assistant to his uncle's trading caravans, travelling to northern Arabia and Syria. It was on these 'business trips' that he learned trading skills.







These skills were later noticed by Khadia, a wealthy widow business-woman.



She hired Muhammad ﷺ to run her commercial enterprise. They were married when she was forty and Muhammad ﷺ was twenty-five.

The marriage produced six children:

two boys who died as infants, and four girls. He remained married to his wife for a period of twenty-five years until her death, despite the fact that taking multiple wives was culturally accepted.

For several years he practiced meditation and contemplation at a cave in Mt. Hira, on the outskirts of Mecca.

It was here, at the age of forty, that he heard the voice, '**Proclaim in the Name of your Lord and Sustainer, Who has created – Created humanity out of a mere clot. Proclaim – for your Lord Is the Most Gracious One Who has taught (the use of) the Pen, Taught humanity what they did not know!**' (Quran 96:1-5). Thus began the revelation from God, through the angel Gabriel, to Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of God





The leaders of Mecca were displeased with the new message which rejected their idol-worship.



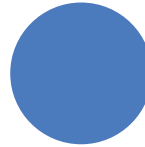
The leaders of Mecca were displeased with the new message which rejected their idol-worship.



**So, the powerful Meccans tortured them.** After years of abuse, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ send some Muslims to a just and fair Christian king in Africa.

## The year 620,

when he was fifty, was marked by sorrow and sadness as both his wife and uncle, Abu Talib, passed away in the same year.



Without the protection of his uncle, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ turned to other cities for support and shelter. Finally, the people of Madina invited the Muslims to their city and treated them as family.







In Madina,



the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ wrote a city charter guarantying the rights of all residents and made treaties with all neighboring tribes and cities. No one was forced to convert to Islam.

Over the coming years,



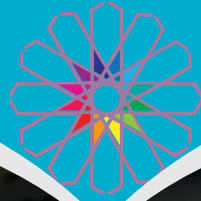
several battles ensued until a truce was stuck at Hudaibiya. When the truce was violated, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ marched on Mecca.



# WHO IS 'MUHAMMAD'?



# 4



## **PART FOUR:** **SOURCES OF ISLAM: QURAN & SUNNA**

This part explains the two major sources of Islam – the Quran and the Sunna.

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# SOURCES OF ISLAM 'QURAN AND SUNNA'



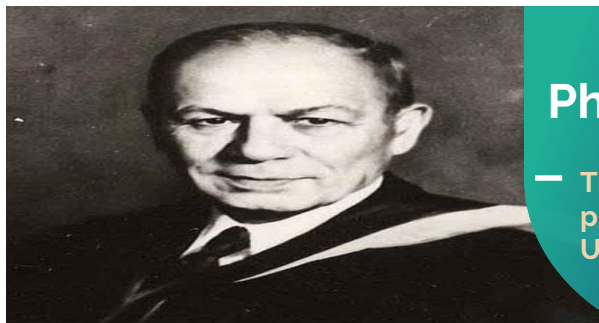
Muslims learn about their religion from two basic sources, the 'Quran' and the 'Sunna' of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

## ■ Quran:



### Marmaduke Pickthall

- The Meanings of The Glorious Quran



### Philip Hitti

- The Arabs: A Short History, p. 26- 27, 1943 Princeton University Press.

### Meaning Translation: —

'...The Qur'an cannot be translated. ...The book is here rendered almost literally and every effort has been made to choose befitting language. But the result is not the Glorious Qur'an, that inimitable symphony, the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy. It is only an attempt to present the meaning of the Qur'an-and peradventure something of the charm in English. It can never take the place of the Qur'an in Arabic, nor is it meant to do so...'

### Miraculous Book: —

'By virtue of its peculiar structure Arabic lent itself admirably to a terse, epigrammatic manner of speech. Islam made full use of this feature of the language and of this psychological peculiarity of its people. Hence the "miraculous character" of the style and composition of the Koran, adduced by Moslems as the strongest argument in favor of the genuineness of their faith. The triumph of Islam was to a certain extent the triumph of a language, more particularly of a book. '



# SOURCES OF ISLAM 'QURAN AND SUNNA'

To the Muslims, the Quran is not just 'a' book,' but 'the Book.'



## Quran

**The Arabic Quran is about as long as the Christian New Testament.**

In most editions it is between 400 and 600 pages in length.

1

**The Quran contains over six thousand verses (Arabic aa-yat) that were revealed over 23 years.**

Verses are collected into 114 surahs or chapters of unequal length.

2

**In contrast to the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament.**

the Quran issued from the mouth of a single person, who recited what he heard from the angel Gabriel.

3

**On the other hand, both the Jewish and the Christian scriptures are collections of many books.**

They were written down by different people who did not live at the same time or in the same place.

4

**On the other hand, both the Jewish and the Christian scriptures are collections of many books.**

Yet, the true power of the Quran remains in the oral recitation.

5





# WHAT MAKES 'THE QURAN' SPECIAL?

## ➤ Original language

Of all the major scriptures only the Quran exists in the original language it was revealed in – Arabic. The Arabic Quran is not the same as its translation. The Bible is the Bible, no matter what language it may be in, but a Quran translation is not the word of God.

The "Quran" is the exact Arabic words spoken by God and revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in Arabic. God says in the Quran, "Indeed, I revealed it as an Arabic Quran." (Quran 12:2)



The Quran is the only book revealed by God, Muslims believe, that has remained unchanged for 1400 years.

The Quran that is read and recited today is exactly the same Quran that was read and recited at the time of the Prophet of Islam.



Lastly, Muslims claim that the Quran is the true Word of God for several reasons:







**1**

## The Literary Miracle of The Quran

The Arabic Quran is considered inimitable, it has no equal. Human beings, no matter how hard they try, are not capable of replicating something similar in beauty, eloquence, or wisdom. Past prophets offered proof of their prophethood through miracles.

The Quran is the living miracle of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who never went to school. During his life, he never read a book, nor was he ever tutored. How could a man uneducated in the modern sense of the word, all of a sudden, produce a book of supreme eloquence at the age of forty?

**2**

## The Scientific Miracles in The Quran

The Quran has scientific information that was unknown 1400 years ago. Here are a few examples:

- The development of the embryo is accurately described in the Quran
- The sun is not stationary, but moves in a specific direction
- The living things consist mostly of water
- That mountains have deep 'stake' like roots

### 3

## Content & Teachings Of The Quran

### **In the Quran God speaks in the first person, describing**

- Himself,
- the principles of belief,
- the fate of man in the life to come after death.
- It contains the accounts of past prophets and their communities.
- It has prayers and words of inspiration.
- It tells us how the Creator fashions the universe and develops the fetus in the womb.
- It examines the heart and mind of man.
- It tells people how to pray, fast, and take care of the needy.
- It tells people that they should observe God's instructions purely for God's sake, not for any worldly aims.
- It warns those who deny God's messages that they will be thrown into the fire of Hell,
- It promises those who accept the messages that they will be given the bliss of Paradise.
- Much more than the Judeo-Christian Bible, the Quran talks specifically about God.
- God's compassion and mercy are cited 192 times in the Quran, as opposed to 17 references to his wrath.
- It goes into details of human interrelationships - such as laws of inheritance and marriage.
- Despite this, it is not just a work of theology, law, history, or natural science.
- It is all of those and none of them at the same time. It is more than the sum of its component parts.

# SOURCES OF ISLAM 'QURAN AND SUNNA'



Every report about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is called a "hadith" whereas the 'Sunna' refers to the teachings and the way of life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

## Sunna:

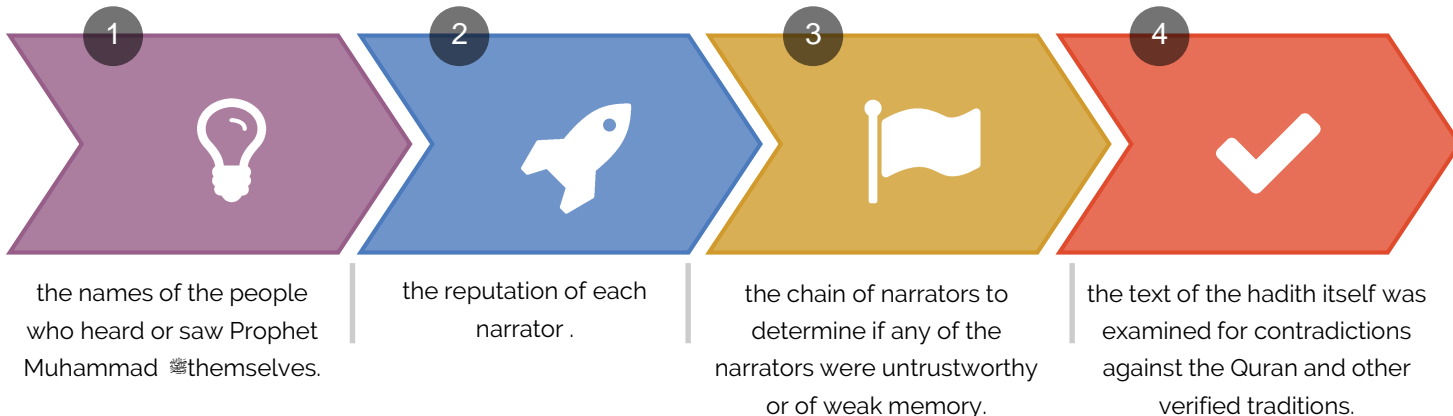
**During the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and after his death, his companions preserved his sayings and words by collecting and writing them down.**

It is central to the understanding of Islam as without the 'Sunna' one cannot really understand how to implement Islam. 'Sunna' is contained in the books of hadith.

Muslim scholars developed a very sophisticated system

to investigate the transmitted material or the 'hadith' to ensure its accuracy.

**They examined:**



# SOURCES OF ISLAM 'QURAN AND SUNNA'

The 'Sunna' refers to the teachings and the way of life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



## Sunna:

Based on the results of the examination, hadith were classified into four different types:



Among the more notable collections those of Imam Bukhari from Bukhara (a city in modern-day Uzbekistan), and Imam Muslim of Persia.

Their collections of hadith are considered to be the most authentic. The English translations are easily available on the Internet. They are the collected sayings and actions of the Prophet, categorized by topic (such as faith, works, testimony, prayer, fasting, charity, marriage, finance), that were compiled in the early centuries of Islam.



# 'QURAN VS SUNNA'



The verses of the Quran are unique in their style. From rhymes to prose, there is a certain way that the information is presented using certain types of constructions.

The words of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ or hadiths are words he spoke to people that are neither rhymed nor recited in a melodious voice.

The following is an example of the difference in style.



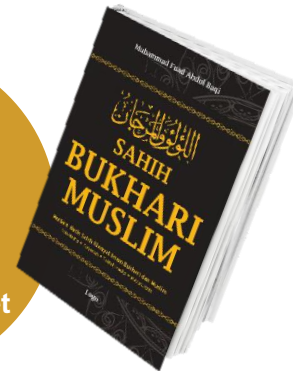
1st

The verse from the Quran.

"O You who believe, shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a painful doom? It is that you believe in Allah and His Messenger and then strive in His cause with your wealth and your persons. That is best for you if you only knew."(Quran 61:10-11)

2nd

Hadiths of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ



"The older a person gets the more his desire for two things increases: wealth and longevity."(Bukhari)

"Learning is a duty on every Muslim, male and female."(Bukhari)

As you can see, the tone and style of the Quran is distinctly different in the Arabic language from the tone of hadith which are more like words of wisdom, statements of a teacher to his students.



# HOW DID THE SUNNAH REACH US?



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## THE SUNNAH

**THE CHAIN OF  
TRANSMISSION**

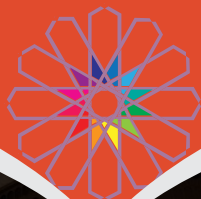
**SANAD  
AL-HADITH**

تلك السلسلة هي 'سلسلة الرواة' أو ما يسمى بـ 'سند الحديث'





5



# **PART FIVE: ISLAMIC VALUES & CONTRIBUTION OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION TO THE WORLD**

This part is dedicated to Islamic values and the contribution made to the world by the Islamic civilization.

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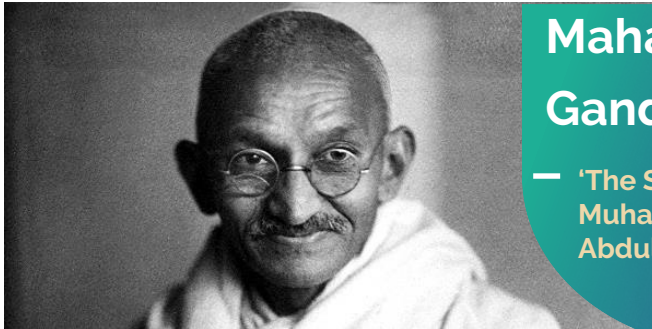
# ISLAMIC VALUES

The Quran and Sunna truly embody the values of the Islamic faith



## Maurice Bucaille

— A French medical doctor and a specialist in gastroenterology. Author of "The Bible, The Quran and Science".



## Mahatma Gandhi

— 'The Sayings of Muhammad,' by Sir Abdullah Suhrawardy,

### Religion of knowledge —

"Islam teaches that God has given man the faculty of reason and therefore expects man to reason things out objectively and systematically. In view of the state of knowledge in Muhammad's days, it is inconceivable that the verses of Quran could have been the work of man. A totally objective examination of the Quran in the light of modern knowledge, leads us to recognize the agreement between Quran and science."

### Teachings Of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ —

'They are among the treasures of mankind, not merely Muslims.'

Gandhi in his foreword to 'The Sayings of Muhammad,' by Sir Abdullah Suhrawardy, John Murray Publishers Ltd, London, 1941.





# ISLAMIC VALUES

The following is a sample of the beautiful Islamic teachings enshrined in the sacred texts:

## 1 | God

'Indeed, I am God, there is no god beside Me, So worship Me And establish regular prayer for My remembrance.'(2)

## 5 | Forgiveness And Justice

'Show forgiveness, Speak for justice And avoid the ignorant.'(11)

## 2 | Purpose Of Life

'I only created the jinn and mankind that they might worship Me.(3) I demand no livelihood of them, nor do I ask that they should feed Me.'(4)

## 6 | Corruption & Attaining God's Mercy

'Do not corrupt the earth after it has been purged of evil. Pray to Him with fear and hope. His mercy is within reach of the righteous.'(12)

## 3 | Parents

'And We enjoined man (to show kindness) to his parents, For with much pain his mother bears him'.(5)

## 7 | Open Hearts

'He whose heart God has opened to Islam, shall receive light from his Lord. But woe to those whose hearts are hardened against the remembrance of God! Truly, they are in the grossest error.'(13)

## 4 | Acts Of Compassion

'And what will explain to you what the steep path is? It is the freeing of a (slave) from bondage; Or the giving of food in a day of famine to an orphan relative, or....., enjoy fortitude and encourage kindness and compassion.'(10)

## 8 | Mercy

' Show mercy to those on earth and God will show mercy to you.'(14)



# ISLAMIC VALUES



The following is a sample of the beautiful Islamic teachings enshrined in the sacred texts:

## 9 | Power

'The powerful one is not one who can wrestle others, but the one who controls himself.'(15)

## 13 | Humility In Practice

'God has inspired me that you should be humble so that so no one despises anyone, and no one oppresses anyone.'(19)

## 10 | Mindfulness

'Be mindful of God, and you will find God in front of you. Acknowledge God in ease, and God will acknowledge you in distress.'

## 14 | The Just

'The just will be on platforms of light in the presence of God; those who are just in their decisions, with their families, and with what they are in charge of.'(20)

## 11 | Compassion

'Whoever has no compassion for people, God has no compassion for him.'(17)

## 15 | Injustice

'Injustice will be layers of darkness on the Day of Resurrection.'(21)

## 12 | Being In The World

'Be in the world as if you were a stranger, or a wayfarer.'(18)

## 16 | Kindness

'God is Kind, and loves kindness in all things.'(22)



# ISLAMIC VALUES



The following is a sample of the beautiful Islamic teachings enshrined in the sacred texts:

## 17 | Arguing, Lying And Good Character

'I guarantee an abode on the edge of Paradise for whoever gives up disputation, even when in the right; and an abode in the middle of Paradise for whoever gives up telling lies even in jest; and an abode on the heights of Paradise for whoever is of good character.'(23)

## 18 | Killing

"«if anyone kills a person - unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land - it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind."(24)

## 19 | Jesus & Muhammad (Peace Be On Them)

'I am the closest of all people to Jesus, son of Mary, in this world and in the Hereafter; for all prophets are brothers, with different mothers but one religion.'(26)

## 20 | Kind Treatment of Wives

"And live with them in kindness."(6)  
Treatment of Fellow Human Beings  
'And speak kindly to people.'(7) 'And do good (to everyone). Indeed, God loves those who do good.'(8)  
'Repel evil with what is better.'(9)



# CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION



Islam, from its inception, has encouraged Muslims to pursue intellectual and scientific exploration.



## Prince Charles

- In a speech at Oxford University, 27 October 1993

“If there is much misunderstanding in the West about the nature of Islam, there is also much ignorance about the debt our own culture and civilization owe to the Islamic world. It is a failure which stems, I think, from the strait-jacket of history which we have inherited. ”



## Carly Fiorina

- former CEO of HP, in a speech given in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Sep 26, 2001

“...the civilization I'm talking about was the Islamic world from the year 800 to 1600, which included the Ottoman Empire and the courts of Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, and enlightened rulers like Suleiman the Magnificent. Although we are often unaware of our indebtedness to this other civilization, its gifts are very much a part of our heritage. The technology industry would not exist without the contributions of Arab mathematicians. Sufi poet-philosophers like Rumi challenged our notions of self and truth. Leaders like Suleiman contributed to our notions of tolerance and civic leadership.. ”





# CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION



Throughout its history, the Muslim world made vital contributions to science and medicine, philosophy, and the arts.

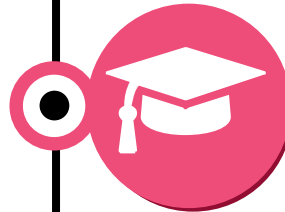
## Centers of learning in the Islamic world made notable contributions.



They contributed to **algebra**, **medical** anatomical drawings, **optics**, **geographical** maps, and produced several scientific instruments, such as the **astrolabe** (used to determine the position of sun and stars).

What follows are only some snapshots of Muslim contributions to our world:

- The Qarawiyn University in Fez, Morocco is the oldest running university in the world. It was founded by Fatima al-Fihria, a Muslim woman, in 859 C.E.
- The second oldest university in the world is AL-Azhar University, founded in Cairo, Egypt in the tenth century.
- The Umayyad rulers of Spain had a library of 600,000 volumes in their huge Cordoba library.
- Hakam II, the caliph of Spain from 961-978, said the love of books was 'a more consuming passion than his throne.'



## 01 Education





**Abu Bakr Al-Razi**, a native of Persia, traveled to Baghdad to study medicine and later became director of a large hospital there. He wrote more than 200 books and was a master of experimental medicine. He made discoveries and wrote treatises on pediatrics, oral hygiene, smallpox, measles, allergies, scabies, and kidney stones.



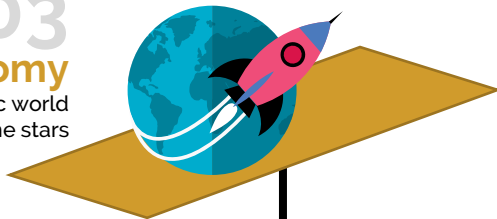
## 02 Medicine

Muslims translated the works of **Hippocrates, Dioscorides, Galen, and others** into Arabic. The first modern hospitals were established throughout the Islamic world. **Harun al-Rashid, a Muslim ruler, created the first modern hospital in Baghdad in 805 C.E.**

**Ibn Sina**, known in the West as **Avicenna**, was born in present-day Uzbekistan in the tenth-century. Ibn Sina's masterpiece was titled **'The Canon of Medicine.'** This encyclopedia of medicine consisted of more than a million words and included summarized Greek medicine, anatomical drawings, descriptions of diseases and their cures, and an outline of 760 medicinal plants and the drugs that could be derived from them. The monumental work was translated into many languages and was taught to trainee doctors in universities in France and Italy from the 12th to the 16th century. In addition, the works of more than 400 other physicians and authors were translated into European languages.

## 03 Astronomy

Muslim scientists built observatories all over the Islamic world and refined Ptolemy's catalog and coordinates for the stars



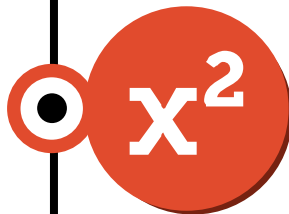
In the eleventh century C.E., **Nasir Al-Tusi** of Baghdad invented the azimuth quadrant and the torquetum, instruments used to compute and measure positions of stars. The word "azimuth" comes from the Arabic word *assumut* (compass bearings).





## 04 Mathematics & Physics

The numerals we use today originated in India but were transmitted to the Western world by Muslim scholars in the 8th century C.E. Muslim mathematicians introduced the concept of “sifr” or zero



- Ibn Al-Haytham (965– 1040 C.E.) calculated the height of Earth's atmosphere to be thirty-two miles. He was off by just a mile!
- Al- Khawarizmi. is known as the founder of algebra who also gave the concept of an algorithm. He developed solutions for linear and quadratic equations and detailed trigonometric tables and geometric and arithmetical concepts.
- Al-Biruni, born in 973 C.E. studied Greek, Syriac, and Sanskrit and wrote about Earth's rotation, made calculations of latitude and longitude, and used mathematical techniques to determine the seasons.

Jabir bin Hayyan or Geber (722 to ca 815) is unanimously considered the founder of Chemistry. He devised and perfected sublimation, liquefaction, crystallization, distillation, purification, amalgamation, oxidation, and filtration. He discovered the sulphuric and nitric acids and built a precise scale.



## 05 Chemistry

Razi or Rhazes (864 to 925) was even a greater expert than Geber. He designed and described more than 20 lab instruments that are still used today such as the crucible, cucurbit, or retort for distillation. The main chemistry textbook for medieval Europe, Sum of Perfection, was written by a Muslim, Iraqi scholar, Kindi (801-873).

- Under the leadership of al-Khawarizmi, seventy geographers worked together to produce the first map of the globe, in 830 C.E.
- Al-Idrisi, grew up in Muslim Spain and educated in Cordoba, was hired to produce a world map for the Norman King of Sicily, Roger II. Christopher Columbus used a map that was derived from Al-Idrisi's work in his explorations of the New World.



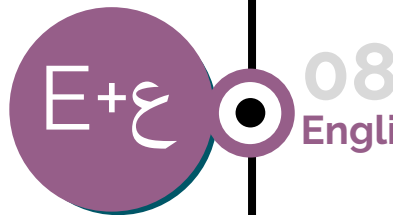
## 06 Geography

Muslims were among the first to calculate Earth's circumference, publish detailed world maps, and study elements and minerals. Muslim geographers traveled all over the world to gather data.





Of all western European languages, Spanish has the highest concentration of words from Arabic. But, the influence of the Muslim world can also be seen in the many English words that originated from the Arabic language.



## English Words Of Arab Origin

ENGLISH	ARABIC
admiral	amir
alchemy	al-kimiya
alcohol	al-kohl
algebra	al-Jabr
almanac	al-manaakh
atlas	atlas
camphor	kafur
cipher/zero	sifr
cornea	qarniya
cotton	qutn
elixir	aksir
gauze	gazz
jar	jarrah
kohl	kuhl
safari	safara
sofa	suffa
talc	talq
typhoon	tufaan
vizier	waxir

Ex:

Some  
Examples





# CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

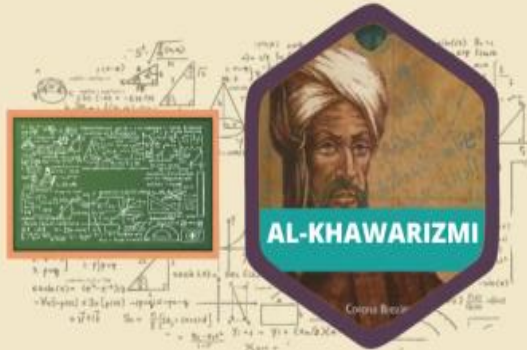


# ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE

GuideToIslam.com



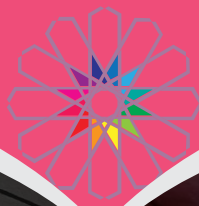
KNOWN AS THE FOUNDER OF  
ALGEBRA AND THE ALGORITHM



KNOW THAT THE FOUNDER OF  
FOR MOTORS



# 6



## PART SIX: WOMEN IN ISLAM

Is about women, one of the most misunderstood aspects of the faith.

---



# WOMEN IN ISLAM

Islam, as a faith, elevates the status of women in society and advocates their rights

"If this is Islam, I told myself, I want it. I want to be a part of this generosity, this empathy. I will join this faith with all my heart."

## Lauren Booth,

- British journalist, sister-in-law of Tony Blair, interviewed by Hasan Rahim for The American Muslim.

She accepted Islam in 2010.

"It's (referring to the Koran) a magna carta for women!" "The Koran makes it clear that women are equal in spirituality, worth and education. What everyone forgets is that Islam is perfect; people are not."

## Yvonne Ridley

- British journalist in "A Muslim in the family" BBC News, May 1, 2004 & "Articles of faith" The Guardian, February 24, 2004

She accepted Islam in 2003

"True Islam is very different from its picture painted in the media (or the ugly distortions by certain extremists). It is not only my personal interpretation that is different. Anyone who takes the time to do serious research (reading books and speaking to Muslim scholars not just browsing the internet) with an open heart and mind will discover its profundity, and will see the truth in its spiritual and ethical teachings."

## Kristiane Backer

- a German television presenter, television journalist and author, in an interview with William Dobson 3rd Sep 2012.





# WOMEN IN ISLAM

The issue of women in Islam is greatly misunderstood. The West has stereotyped Islam as anti-women.

## In fact,

the opposite is true. In the eyes of many Westerners, Muslim women are hidden behind negative stereotypes that portray them as either oppressed, subservient wives and daughters or, more recently, as potential terrorists.



## Men and women

serve different, but equally important roles in the society and a family. They are in a mutual relationship, both have corresponding rights and are equal in the sight of God. Here is some of what the Quran has to say about women:

“The believers, men and women, are protectors, one of another. They enjoy what is right, and forbid what is wrong. They observe regular prayers, pay regular charity, And obey God and His Messenger. On them will God pour Mercy, for God is Exalted in power, Wise.”(1)

‘And their Lord answered them: Truly I will never cause to be lost the work of any of you, Be you a male or female, you are members one of another.’(2)





# WOMEN IN ISLAM

Before Islam, women in Arabia did not do any better. A harbinger of shame to the family, girls were sometimes buried alive at birth!

“For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, For devout men and women, for true men and women, For men and women who are patient, for men and women Who humble themselves, For men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, For men and women who guard their chastity, And for men and women who engage much in God's remembrance — For them God has prepared forgiveness and great reward”(3).



Since ancient times women were abused and mistreated. In some cultures they were considered property that could be bought, sold, or inherited! Considered inferior to men, they were blamed for misfortune. Their only purpose was to please men.

## The Quran views woman as

spiritually equal to men. Both are God's creatures whose purpose is to worship God, do righteous deeds, and avoid evil.

The Prophet of Mercy told his followers, “Women are the twin- halves of men”(4) Meaning neither is complete without the other. It takes both to make a whole.

## In Islam, The equality

of men and women in Islam goes back to the creation of Adam and Eve and their description in the Quran.

Muslims believe that Adam and Eve were not created identical, but made to complement each other.

## In the seventh century,

Islam gave women rights and freedoms that have only been recently gained in the West. Historically, France gave women the right to own property only in 1938. American women won the right to vote in 1920. Gender inequality is still a hotly debated issue in the US. Traditional



# WOMEN IN ISLAM



Since ancient times women were abused and mistreated.

## In some cultures they were considered property

that could be bought, sold, or inherited! Considered inferior to men, they were blamed for misfortune. Their only purpose was to please men. Before Islam, women in Arabia did not do any better. A harbinger of shame to the family, girls were sometimes buried alive at birth!

## Islamic law provides hundreds of provisions for women's rights including:

A woman's property is her own and cannot be seized by her husband.

Women cannot be denied the right to education.

Ruining a woman's reputation is a punishable offense.

A woman cannot be forced into marriage.

Women can file legal suits and testify in court.

Women can freely enter into contracts Spousal abuse is a punishable offense.

Women can seek divorce from their husbands. Women receive equal pay for work.

Unfortunately, Muslim societies do not live up to these ideals. Today, women's rights vary widely in the Muslim world, reflecting a great variety of cultures and range of modernization and economic development in Muslim nations. Culture and traditions often interfere or even overshadow the faith's true teachings. In some instances, local practices have no justification in the faith or violate the faith's teachings altogether like honor killings, female genital mutilation, and forced marriages.





## This video discusses the status of women in Islam,

and compares it to how other religions and communities look at women. It also refers to the views of different philosophers, pointing out that many give women a very inferior status, despite the fact that God gives women an honourable position.



# WOMEN IN ISLAM



### In pre-Islamic days,

a woman was treated like a commodity that may be bought and sold. Many were those who looked with gloom at the birth of a girl. Women were denied any say in their affairs: some were forcibly married or made prostitutes.

### In some societies,

they were treated as men's personal property. They had no right of inheritance, but were part of the estate. They had no right of ownership; indeed they were owned.

### In some other societies,

if a woman had any property, her property belonged to her husband, who could dispose of it without her consent.

***This video shows that*** *Islam gives women their full rights, stresses the importance of their role, honours them and puts heaven itself under a mother's feet.*





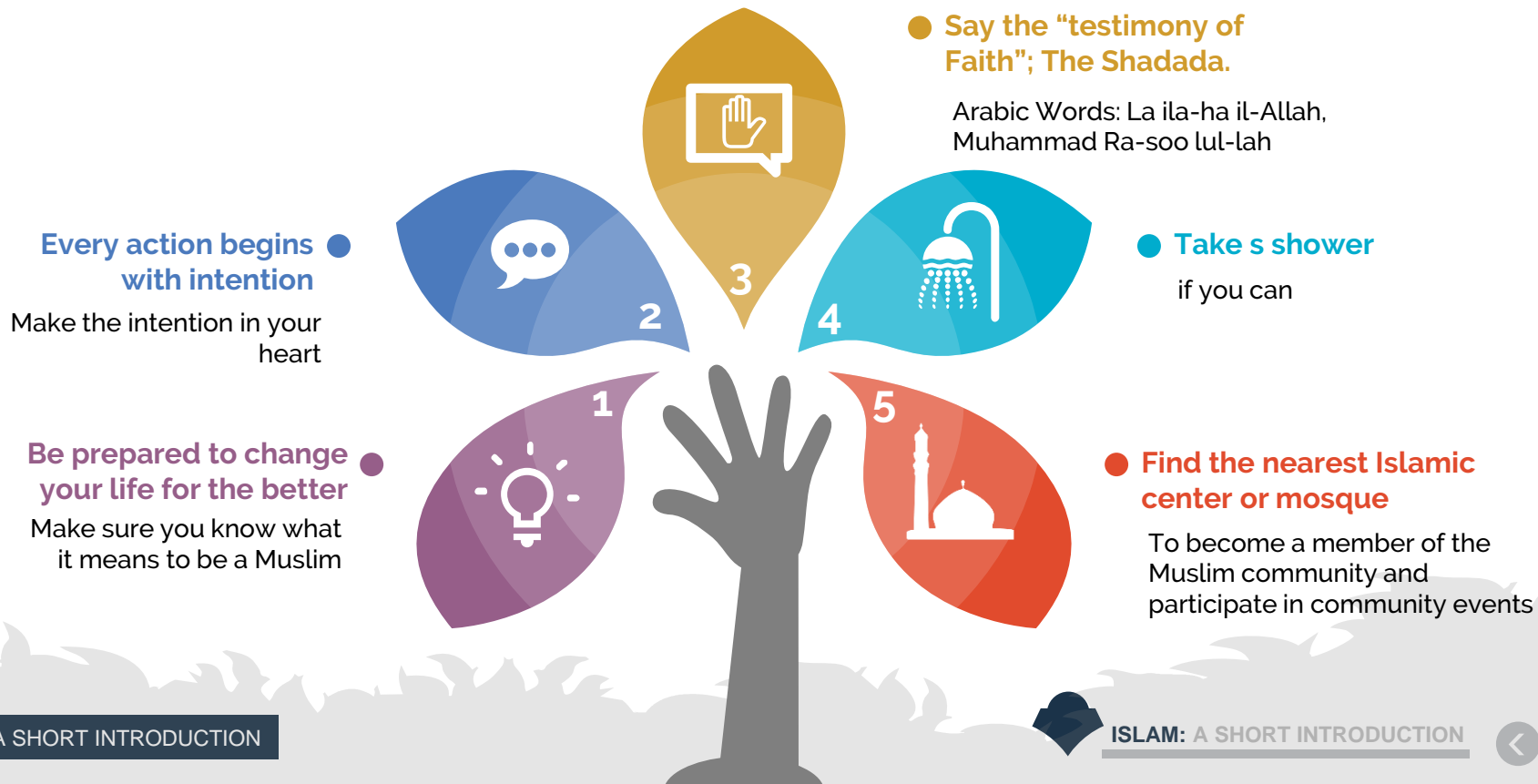


# START WITH SETTING YOUR HEART ON THE RIGHT COURSE





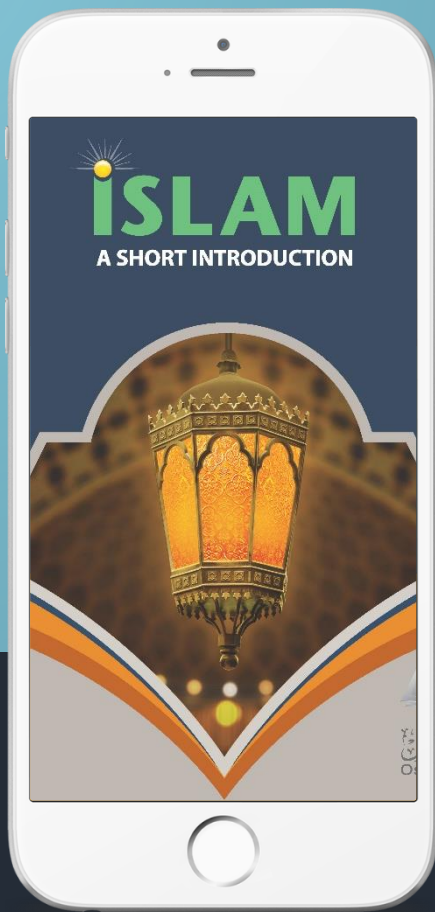
# 5 STEPS TO BE A MUSLIM





# Do you Prefer a deferent language?

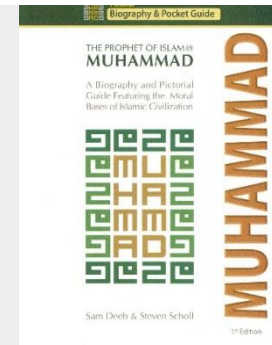
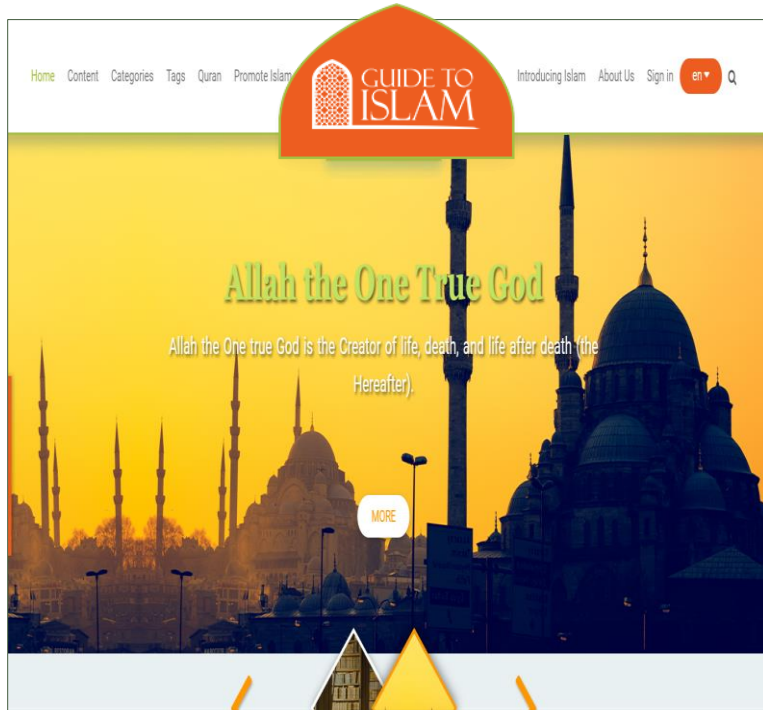
Just click on the picture of the preferred language to download the E-book.





# VALUABLE RESOURCES

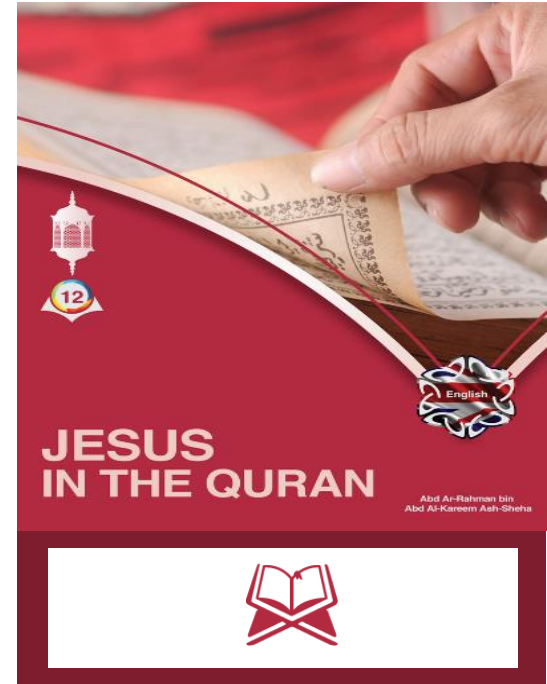
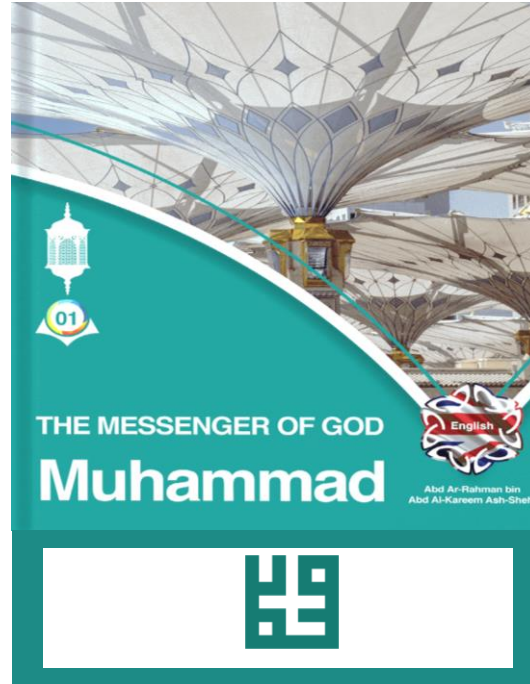
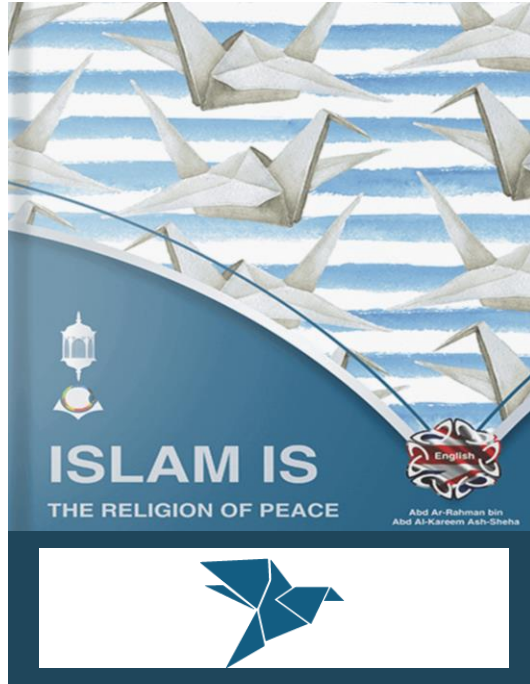
To know more [Click](#) on the pictures to visit the websites and download the books.





# VALUABLE RESOURCES

To know more [Click](#) on the pictures to visit the websites and download the books.







# THE PATH TO HAPPINESS

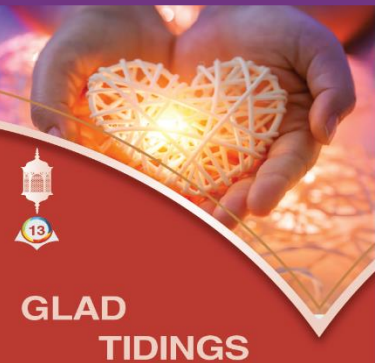


# BILAL THE ABYSSINIAN

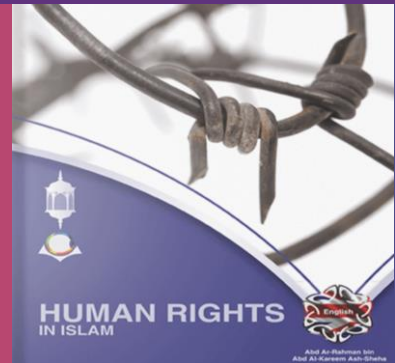
ONE LIGHT, MANY COLORS



مركز الاصول  
Osoul Center  
www.osoulcenter.com



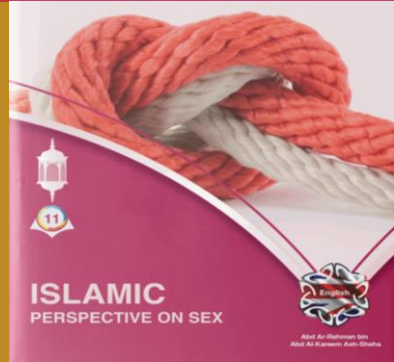
# GLAD TIDINGS



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISLAM



# HISN AI-MU'MIN



# ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE ON SEX



# EASE AND TOLERANCE IN ISLAM







EVERY  
RELIGIOUS INNOVATION  
IS MISGUIDANCE



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



ROMANCE  
IN ISLAM



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



مركز  
الأصول  
Osoul Center  
www.osoulcenter.com



MY FIRST STEPS  
IN ISLAM



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



WOMEN  
IN ISLAM



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



THE PURITY



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



THE BEGINNING  
AND THE END



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha



MESSAGE  
OF ISLAM



Abd Al-Rahman bin  
Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Shaha

The logo for OSOUL features the letters O, S, O, U, and L in a bold, sans-serif font. The first 'O' is dark blue, 'S' is orange, the second 'O' is a lighter orange, 'U' is red, and 'L' is light blue. The background consists of several concentric circles with a grid-like pattern, transitioning from blue on the left to yellow on the right.

OSOUL

Thank you,  
For following-up...