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What is Islam?

Learn to understand Islam!

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English interpretation
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Translate of the original booklet
Vad är Islam? (Swedish booklet)

This booklet is free!

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What is Islam?

The word that arouses most emotions in people, believers and non believers is the word Islam.

What do you think or feel when you hear the word Islam?
The word Islam comes from the Arabic word Salam which means submission, surrender and obedience.

As a religion Islam stands for complete submission and obedience to Allah. Another literal meaning of the word Islam is peace and serenity and this means that it is only through submission and obedience to Allah, that you can achieve real peace of mind and body. Such a life of obedience gives peace of heart and establishes real peace in society as a whole.

Islam is not a new religion. It's message and guidance is the same message and guidance which God revealed to all His Prophets.



Confession of Faith - Shahada

Confession of faith in Islam calls for the pure form of monotheism, that there is no God who deserves to be worshiped except God, the Arabic word for God is Allah.

Confession of faith is the gate to Islam, which means that the only one who really deserves to be worshiped is Allah.

Allah has sent Prophets with the one and same message, that there is only one God. There will be no other Prophet or any other Messenger from Allah after Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him.

As a Muslim, you must have a belief in all the previous Prophets: For example, Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jesus, peace be upon them.

Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him, was born in Mecca. He soon became an orphan, he became known among his people in Mecca as "Al-Amin" which in Arabic means "the truthful or trustworthy".



The Angels - Malaika

At age of 40, Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him received the message of the Angel Gabriel that he is the Messenger of Allah.

Gabriel is one of many angels, created by Allah. The angels are God's chosen beings, free from sin and by nature unable to defy Allah and always engaged in carrying out His commands.

Angels surround us on all sides, they observe and record all our actions, good and bad, they perform a complete record of each person's life.

And after death, we shall be brought before Allah and the angels will give off a full statement of our life's work on earth.

From the Qur'an

[35:1] All praise and thanks are Allah's, the (only) Originator of the heavens and the earth, who made the angels messengers equipped with two or three or four pairs of wings. He increases in creation what He wills. Verily, Allah is Able to do all things.

[49:2] O you who believe! Raise not your voices above the voice of the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him) nor speak aloud to him in talk, as you speak aloud to one another, lest your deeds should be rendered fruitless while you perceive not.

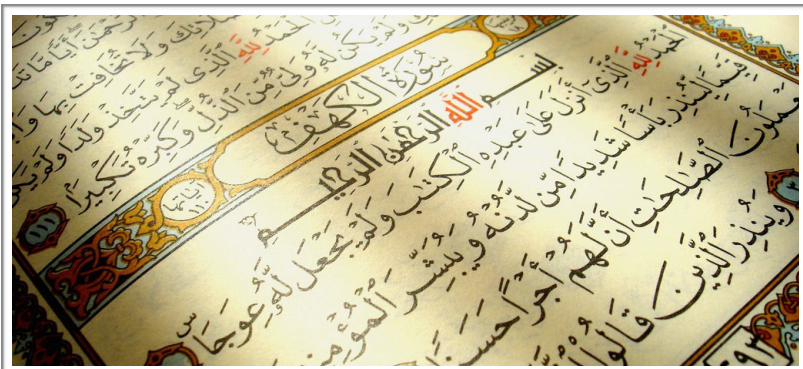
The Quran - Allah's Holy Scripture

The Holy Qur'an is Allah's message to humanity. The Quran is Allah's word as they were revealed through the Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him. We believe in the books that God has sent down to mankind through His Prophets.

We have been told the names of some of these writings of Abraham, Moses receiving the Torah, David received the Psalms, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we are confident that all the books that God has sent down are true.

According to Islam, every Muslim must respect other religions. The Quran tells us that people have changed and distorted the Torah and the Gospel so that God's words have been altered with people's own words and texts.

The Quran alone is definitely made up by God's own words. Every word of it is preserved in its original condition. The only holy book that has been preserved in its original condition is the holy Quran. The Quran is Allah's true word, Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him, is our guide.



Day of Judgement - Al-Yom Al-Akher

Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah's be upon him, has called for a true faith in the last day. That life on this earth and everything in it is to end on a given day only Allah has knowledge of. This day is called the Day of Judgement.

Judgement Day is the day when Allah will gather all of humanity each individual will be held responsible for their actions during their lifetime and then determine the fate of man. Either you are belonging to the dwellers of Paradise or Hell.

From the Qur'an

[23:115] "Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose), and that you would not be brought to us?"

[23:116] So exalted is Allah, the true King: La Ilahaa illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Lord of the Supreme Throne!



Fate (Destiny) - Qadr

Human beings is God's highest creation, which choose their own path. As a Muslim, we believe in free will of mind. Allah has shown us two ways. He does not impose us to choose the way. Allah knows what path we will take without forcing us to it.

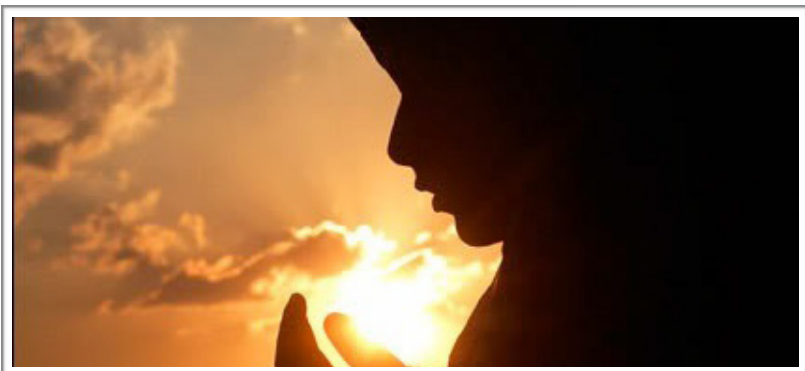
Therefore we as Muslims can not under any circumstances, force anyone to become Muslim. During Prophet Muhammad's rule the Muslims, Christians and Jews lived together side by side.

Allah says in the Holy Qur'an, which can be translated in to the following:

From the Qur'an

[2:256] There is no compulsion in religion

[109:6] To you be your religion, and to me my religion



Prayer - Salât

To show faith in action we perform one of the five obligatory prayers. The Prayer is a direct link between man and the Creator. For there is no mediator between the servant and the Creator.

Through prayer, you show your complete devotion and obedience to Allah.

Through prayer you approach your Master, for us, prayer is more than a duty, it is a right and a freedom.

Five times a day you're leaving the worldly life's troubles to get some time in peace with your Creator.



Fasting - Saum

During the fasting month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse with his spouse, this from sunrise to sunset. Fasting teaches us to love, to be sincere and to fear God. This develops and teaches us a sound social conscience, patience, unselfishness and willpower.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is characterized by generosity, joy and fellowship.



Charity - Zakat

Islam has pointed out the individual's role in society by legislating the obligation to pay a certain percentage in charity, representing 2.5% of one's savings in one year. Charity is paid to the poor and needy. This is the world's first economic system that was introduced to fight against poverty.



Pilgrimage - Hajj

Every year Mecca is visited by pilgrims from every corner of world. This is to perform a mandatory act. A muslim performs the pilgrimage at least once in his lifetime. Every Muslim who is in his right state of mind should visit Mecca, provided that you can afford it, as well leaving money that can meet the family's needs, supplies and subsistence for one's absence.

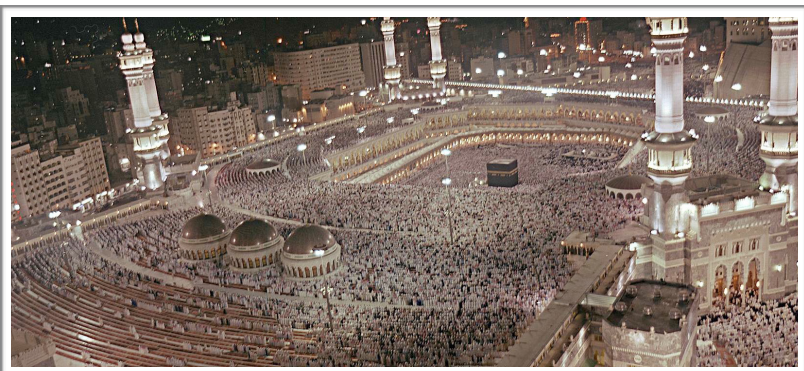
During the pilgrimage to Mecca one can through self-observation see the Islamic miracle and the brotherhood of all races and nations.

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

[30:22] And among His Signs is that He created you (Adam) from dust, and then Hawwa (Eve) from Adams rib, and then his offspring from semen, and – behold you are human beings scattered!

Prophet Muhammad, may Allahs peace and blessings be upon him said:

An Arab is no superior than a non-Arab, nor is a non-Arab superior to an Arab, nor is a white superior a black or black superior to a white.



Summary

Islam is Allah's true faith, all we see around us in the universe is a sign that there is a higher power and that there is a powerful Creator. Islam gives happiness both in the earthly life and in the life of the hereafter.

Islam's five pillars

1. Confession of Faith (Shahada)
2. Prayer (Salât)
3. Charity (Zakat)
4. Fasting (Saum)
5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)

The six pillars of Faith

1. To believe in **One God** (Allah).
2. To believe in **His Angels** (Malaika).
3. To believe in **His Books** (Al-Kutob).
4. To believe in **His Prophets** (Rosul).
5. To believe in the **Day of Judgement** (Al-Yom Al-Akher).
6. To believe in **Fate** (Qadr).

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Sponsors

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