

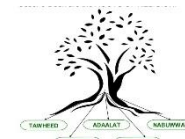
Quran	Direct message of God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.	Important because: - Tells humans all they need to know about God, religion and how to live their lives - For Muslims the Qur'an contains only the literal unchanged words of Allah
Hadith	Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad	Important because: - Muhammad was the final prophet and so his words must be important - The best person to interpret the Qur'an must be Muhammad
Sunnah	The footsteps of the Prophets	Important because: - The practices, customs and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad are considered to be a perfect example for a Muslim to follow.

# الله Muslim beliefs محمد

## 2. The five roots in Shi'a Islam (Usul as-din)

These are five roots of faith which are the basis of Shi'a faith.

- Belief in the oneness of God (Tawhid)
- Belief in Allah's justice (Adalat)
- Beliefs in Allah's prophets from Adam to Muhammad (Nubuwwah)
- Belief in the successors of Muhammad (imamah) and belief that chosen descendants of the Prophet Muhammad were given special powers by Allah
- Belief in the Day of Judgement



The Usul as-din are important because:

- ✓ They are the basis of Shi'a Islam; it is from the 'roots' that the religion grows
- ✓ They are the five principles of faith and show a person what they must believe to be a Muslim
- ✓ They come from the teachings of the Qur'an and the Twelve Imams, which means they are of utmost importance to Shi'a Muslims.
- ✓ Shi'a Muslims believe that unless they understand and believe the five roots, they will not be able to perform the acts of worship necessary to live the Muslim life
- ✓ They are the beliefs that Muslims must hold if their practices are to be correct and to ensure that they go to heaven

## 3. The nature of Allah

Muslims believe that God's nature is shown in the 99 names of God which can be found in the Qur'an.

Characteristic	This means...	This is important to Muslims because...
Oneness (Tawhid)	Allah must be the creator of everything since he is the only God, in control of everything and present in the universe He created.	- Muslims must try to preserve the world he created. - Muslims must only worship Allah (to worship others life Allah is shirk)
Omnipotence	Allah has complete powerful. He has created the universe and so must have complete power over it	- Muslims believe that Allah is in control of everything - God will bring the world to an end and has the power to do this
Beneficence and mercy	Beneficence is the idea that not only is Allah good, He is kind and loving to his creation and sent prophets with his word to show humans how to live. The Qur'an also teaches that Allah's mercy is such that if people fail to live the perfect Muslim life, he will forgive them.	- If God is merciful, Muslims should be too - On the Last Day Muslims will be able to ask for mercy if they have shown mercy to others
Justice (Adalat)	Justice means fairness and the maintenance of what is right. Allah' justice is shown in his holy law, Shari'ah and the way he deals with humans on the Last Day.	- God is just and will reward the good and punish the bad - Muslims must try to behave justly and preserve a just society and so work for equal rights and fair laws
Transcendence	Refers to the aspect of God's nature and power which is totally beyond the material world and so human experience and understanding.	- Allah is worthy of human worship as is greater than anything - Allah is not restricted by time, space or matter and so can be contacted by humans wherever they are
Immanence	Allah is close to humans and within the universe he has created.	- Allah is present for all religious activities of a Muslim - Despite God's greatness, Allah can be contacted by humans

## 1. Six beliefs of Islam (articles of faith)

These are six principles that a Sunni Muslim must believe to be accepted as a Muslim.

- Belief in Allah
- Belief in His angels
- Belief in His holy books
- Belief in His messengers
- Belief in the Last Day
- Belief in life after death

Based on the Qur'an. 'The men of faith. Each one believeth in God and His angels, His books and His apostles' (2: 285)

Based on a Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad.

There is some disagreement about the sixth belief. Some believe that it refers to 'destiny', known as predestination (al-Qadr). Therefore some Muslims describe the six beliefs in three categories instead:

- **Tawhid** (the oneness of God)
- **Risalah** (the messengers of Allah)
- **Akhirah** (the last things)



He six beliefs are important because:

Believing in Tawhid shows that Muslims believe God is the only one, which means he must be the creator of everything, and so must be all powerful

Believing in angels shows that God can communicate with humans using His special beings

Believing in the holy books of God demonstrates that God has sent books to show humans what to believe and how to live

How these impact of Muslim communities today:

- ✓ The six beliefs mean that all people are created equal in the sight of God. No one is superior to others (except because of their religious devotion/piety) therefore people should not judge others
- ✓ These beliefs mean that in Sunni Islam there are no priests or holy men with special authority, there can be no prophets after Muhammad so no human can have God's special authority
- ✓ Salvation in Islam comes through believing in the six beliefs and living in the way set out by Islam

## 4. Risalah (prophet)

Muslims believe that Allah created humans to look after the earth for him (Khalifah or vicegerents) and humans need prophets to know how to do this.

Prophets were all ordinary human beings; what made them different as that they were chosen to receive Allah's messages.

There are many prophets but the main prophets in Islam are:

Adam	- Adam was the first prophet of Islam. Adam and his wife, Hawwa (Eva) at the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Allah placed Adam and Hawwa on earth to life and Allah forgave them. - Adam built a House of Allah (Ka'aba) in thanks for his forgiveness.
Ibrahim (Abraham)	- Abraham and his wife had no children in old age but then Allah granted him two sons, Isma'il and Ishaq. - Ibrahim had a vision that told him to sacrifice his son, as he was about to obey Allah's commands, Allah stopped him and rewarded them for their obedience. - Ibrahim and Isma'il restored the Ka'aba after it was destroyed by Noah's flood. - Ibrahim was given the 'a message for the nations' and all further prophets were descendants of him.
Isma'il (Ismael)	- Helped his father rebuild the Ka'aba and establish it as a place of pilgrimage - Regarded as the prophet to the Arabs
Musa (Moses)	- Musa was born a Jew but raised by Pharaoh. He killed an Egyptian and fled but God called him back to free the Jews from slavery and leave Egypt for God's holy land. - Received the holy book of Tawrat (Torah) but the people distorted his message
Dawud (David)	- Dawud, the great king of Israel was given the holy book of Zabur (Psalms)
Isa (Jesus)	- Isa and Maryam (his mother) are major figures in the Qur'an - Surah 19 records a virgin birth and many miracles of Isa; including healing and raising the dead - Muslims believe that Allah took Isa from the cross so that Isa never died. - Isa was give the holy book Injil (Gospels) however the Qur'an makes it clear that Isa was an ordinary man, not the son of God
Muhammad	- Muhammad was called by Allah to bring his final message to humanity - His message must be followed and those who follow will be rewarded. - His life was a perfect example for people to follow - The message of the previous prophets was distorted so Allah sent Muhammad the holy book, the Qur'an which can never be distorted. - The seal of the prophets - final prophet with Allah's final message to humanity

The prophets teach Muslims:

- Islam is the original religion. Allah taught Islam to Adam and all the following prophets
- Each prophet was given Allah's true message and so Muslims should follow their teachings
- All prophets lived lives whose example could be followed, especially Muhammad. (**Sunnah** contains the prophets life)

## 5. Muslim holy books

Muslims believe that God sent prophets (rasul) with his message and the most important of these were given the message in the form of God's holy book.

There is some dispute over these books because:

- Some Muslims believe that God made one holy book, the Qur'an, and each holy book given to a prophet was simply a copy of that
- Some Muslim scholars believe that the early holy books simply contained certain parts of the Qur'an and that only Muhammad was given the full eternal version of the Qur'an

The purpose of the holy books was so that Muslims what to believe and how to live. Muslims are vicegerents or Khalifahs for God and so need to know how to live to protect the world for him the way he wanted.

### History

The holy books started with Adam. Unfortunately, humans distorted God's words and so God had to send other messengers. Muslims believe that God sent his word to:

- Ibrahim (Abraham) = Sahifa Ibrahim (Scrolls of Abraham)
- Musa (Moses) = Tawrat (Torah)
- Dawud (David) = Zabur (Psalms)
- Isa (Jesus) = Injil (Gospels) \*nb. This is not the same as the New Testament Gospels. They believe that they were recordings of what people remembered of the true Gospels given to Jesus

### The Qur'an

Muslims believe that God decided that his word needed revealing in a new way because:

- He had sent it before and each time humans distorted it
- Humans had ignored or disobeyed His message



This meant that the Qur'an need to be sent to a prophet who could not read or recite but recite God's words; but highly intelligent.

Muhammad was that chosen prophet. He ensured his followers memorised the revelations and later had secretaries to write them down. He checked them for accuracy and his wife Hafsa kept them for him.

When Muhammad died, Abu Bak'r, made the authorised version. All other versions were destroyed by Uthman who organised the Surah's by length and created the official version. This means that the Qur'an used today is the exact words of God revealed to Muhammad. 'An earthly copy of a heavenly original' as all copies of the Qur'an have the same Surahs, words and letters (114 Surahs, 77, 639 Arabic words)

The Qur'an is important to Muslims today because:

- Everything in the Qur'an must be true because God said it and so there is no greater authority
- It tells Muslims what to believe - Allah, Angels, Prophets, Holy Books, Judgement Day and Akhirah
- Sets out how Muslims should live - 5 pillars, halal/haram,

## 6. Malaikah (angels)



Muslims believe that Allah cannot communicate directly with humans. Allah created angels as immortal beings without free will.

- They are male and have wings.
- They obey all of Allah's commands so never commit sins
- Angels can have direct contact with Allah and pass his message to humans

Angels have many functions such as:

- Praise Allah in heaven
- Guardians of the gates of hell
- Record the good and bad deeds of humans to present to Allah on the Last Day

Angels are important because:

- Angels communicated the Qur'an to Muhammad, without them Muslims would not have instructions on what to believe or how to live
- Angels ensure that on the Day of Judgement God will have all the facts when judging people's lives
- Angels make sure that heaven is safe from evil

Angel	Role
Jibril (Gabriel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Chief of the angels.</li> <li>✓ Deliver Allah's message to the prophets to pass onto humanity</li> <li>✓ Told Ibrahim (Ishaq/Isaac), Zechariah (Yahya/John the Baptist) and Maryam (Isa/Jesus) about the birth of significant people.</li> <li>✓ Revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad. In 610, during the month of Ramadan and continued to give revelations for the next 20 years until the Qur'an was complete</li> </ul>
Mika'il (Michael)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Second most important angel</li> <li>✓ Guardian of heaven, protecting it from evil and the devil</li> <li>✓ He ensures humans are nourished by sending rain to earth</li> </ul>
Izra'il	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Angel of death</li> <li>✓ Takes the soul of people at death and returns it to Allah when Allah decides it is their time to die</li> </ul>

## 8. Akirah (Life after death)

Muslims believe that when they die their body stays in the grave until the Last Day.

The Qur'an teaches that Allah will bring this world to an end (Last Day). This will be after Isa (Jesus) has returned, the angel Israfit will sound the trumpet and the dead will be raised. We will stand before God on the plain of Arafat to be judged and either sent to heaven or hell.

All Muslims believe that heaven is paradise. It is described in the Qur'an as **al'Jannah** (the Garden):

*'Allah hath promised to Believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the greatest bliss is the good pleasure of Allah. That is the supreme felicity' (Surah 9:72)*

Hell is **Jahannam** and is portrayed in the Qur'an as a place of fire and torture. Most Muslims believe that this a place for eternity, some Muslims believe that bad Muslims only stay to be punished for their sins or for as long as God wills and that there are 7 classes/realms of hell.

### Some differences in belief:

The belief that the soul stays in the grave until the Last Day is challenged by some Muslims as the Qur'an states that those who die on Hajj or fighting in holy war will go straight to heaven and so afterlife is spiritual; meaning your souls are judged immediately after death and go to a spiritual heaven or hell.

Barzakh - period between death and body being raised. Some Muslim traditions say that after death, souls are visited by the angel of death and questioned about their faith. If they have true Muslim faith they are shown their place in heaven and look at it until the Last Day. If they are not, they are beaten with clubs until their judgement.

Other traditions say that the soul hovers over the grave until the Last Day.

Others say the soul simply sleeps so that Barzakh seems a moment between death and the Last Day

Life after death is important because:

- The Qur'an teaches there is Akirah
- Muhammad taught that there is Akirah
- It is one of the six fundamental beliefs

This can affect the lives of Muslims because:

- Muslims will try to live good Muslim lives if they are to go to paradise and avoid hell
- Living a good Muslim life means observing the five pillars
- Living a good Muslim life means following Shari'ah law so eat halal meat, follow Muslim dress laws, not drink alcohol or gamble



## 7. Al-Qadr (fate)

This means power, fate or predestination. This means that everything in the universe is following a divine plan.

*'In all things the master-planning is God's (Surah 13:42)*

Muslims believe that Allah has a plan for the universe he created

He has the power to make that plan happen (omnipotent)

He knows what will happen (omniscient)

In the end everything will work out as Allah willed and wanted

### Al-Qadr and the Day of Judgement

Muslims believe that on the final judgement, Allah will judge everyone on the basis of their beliefs and actions and reward or punish accordingly. People can only be punished for actions which they are responsible and could have done differently. This means that the concept of al-Qadr and Allah's final judgement contradict one another. This has led to two different Muslim explanations:

- ❖ Shi'a Muslims - Allah created humans with free will and his vicegerents responsible for the world. It is therefore up to humans to decide what happens and take responsibility for their actions and so pay the price on the Last Day.
- ❖ Sunni Muslims - Allah knows what people will do before they do it, but they do it of their own free will.

### What does al-Qadr mean for Muslims today?

- Although Muslims may face suffering, they do not need to worry as God is in control, so all will be well
- All suffering must be accepted as it must be part of God's plan and will have a good outcome
- Although God's plans will happen, Muslims have to make their own choice and be responsible for their own actions and destiny.

### Muslim and Christian beliefs about life after death

#### Similarities

- Both believe in judgement
- Both believe in heaven with God
- Both believe the good are rewarded



#### Differences

- Some Christians do not believe in hell and believe that everyone will eventually go to heaven
- Some Christians do not believe in the Last Day and that judgement happens immediately
- Catholics believe in purgatory, a place for those not ready for heaven to be cleansed of their sins.