

Islam: The Religion of all Prophets

Islam is submission to Allah, the Creator of the universe and the Disposer of its affairs, and obedience to Him through love and reverence. The basis of Islam is believing in Allah as the Creator, and everything other than Him is His creation. He is the only One worthy of worship, with no associates. He is the only true Deity. To Him belong the best names and sublime attributes, and to Him belong the absolute, flawless perfection. He neither begets nor was He begotten, and there is no equivalent or counterpart to Him. He is neither incarnated nor immanent in any of His creatures.

Islam is the religion of Allah, the Almighty, Who accepts no other religion from people and it is the religion that Allah revealed to all prophets.

Among the founding principles of Islam is belief (having Iman) in all the prophets and messengers sent by Allah to His servants to convey His commands, and to whom He revealed His Scriptures (divine books). The last of the messengers was Muhammad (peace be upon him), sent by Allah with the final divine law (Sharia) that abrogated the laws of the preceding prophets. Allah has supported him with great miracles, the greatest of which is the Holy Quran—the speech of Allah and the most remarkable book humanity has ever known. It is miraculous in its meaning and content, in its words and diction (eloquence), and in its prosody and versification. Inherent in it is the guidance to the truth leading to happiness in this life and the hereafter. The Holy Quran has been preserved until our present day in the exact Arabic language in which it was originally revealed—no single letter was ever changed or altered.

The founding tenets of Islam additionally include belief in the angels and the Day of Judgment when Allah resurrects people from their graves to hold them accountable for their deeds. Thereupon, those who believe and do righteous deeds will be rewarded with eternal bliss in Heaven, while those who deny the message and commit wrongdoing shall be tormented in the Hellfire. Furthermore, a fundamental principle of Islam is to accept whatever Allah decrees, whether favorable or unfavorable. Muslims believe that Prophet Jesus is Allah's servant and Messenger. He is not Allah's son, for Allah is great and cannot have a wife or a son. Allah told us in the Qur'an that He granted Prophet Jesus miracles and sent him to call his people to worship Him alone, with no partner. Also, He told us that Jesus did not ask his people to worship him; rather, he himself worshiped God, His Creator.

Islam is a religion congruent with common sense and rational thinking, naturally embraced by unspoiled souls. Allah has ordained Islam for His creatures as the religion of goodness and happiness for mankind. It does not discriminate a race over another or color over another. All people are equal; no one has superiority over another except by piety and virtuous deeds.

A wise person should believe in Allah as his God, in Islam as his religion, and in Muhammad as his messenger. There are no other alternatives, as Allah will ask everyone on the Day of Judgment about their response to the divine messages. If they have believed, they will be rewarded with great attainment and supreme success. If they otherwise have disbelieved and denied the messages, the manifest loss will be their recompense.

Whoever wants to embrace Islam should say: Ash-hadu an la ilaha illa Allah, Wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasulu-Allah (I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah), knowing what it means and believing in it. With this testimony said, a person becomes Muslim, and subsequently, they should gradually acquaint themselves with Islamic legislation to conscientiously fulfill their obligations.

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