

**BASIC
PRINCIPLES
OF
ISLAM**



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إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ
In-nad-dina indallaahil-islam

"Truly, the religion with Allāh is Islam." [3:19]



Islam is an Arabic word which means 'surrender'. This means to accept the power of Allāh, and follow His Commands. Happiness in this life and success in the life after death can only be obtained by obeying Allāh.

Islam is not only a religion, but a complete way of life. This means that it shows us how to live all aspects of our lives in the best possible way.

There are Five Pillars on which Islam stands. They are:

1. To firmly believe in the heart and declare:



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

Laa ilaaha illallaah Muhammadur-Rasulullaah

"There is no God but Allāh, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allāh."

This is what is meant by *Imān* (Belief).

2. To pray five times a day (perform *Salāt*).
3. To pay *Zakāt*.
4. To fast during the month of *Ramadān*.
5. To go on *Hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah once in a lifetime if one can afford it.

A person who accepts Islam is called a Muslim. It means 'one who surrenders'. A Muslim is required to do all that Allāh and His Messenger [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] have asked to do, and to keep away from doing things which Allāh and His Messenger [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] have told not to do.

Allāh and His Messenger [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] have told us to do good deeds like being kind to our parents, to help others who are less fortunate and to be kind to animals.



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
 لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

*Laa ilaaha illallaahu, waahdahu laa shareeka lahu,
 lahu'l-mulku wa lahu'l-hamdu, wa Huwa 'ala kulli
 shay'in Qadeer.*

"There is no God except Allâh Alone. There is no partner unto Him. To Him belongs sovereignty, and to Him belongs all praise, and He has power over all things."

- Allāh is One and Almighty.
- He is our Lord.
- He has created us and everything that is in the earth and the heavens.
- He has no partner.
- He has no mother or father, son or daughter.
- He is Eternal.
- There is nothing similar to Him.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَكَ يَدٌ وَلَمْ
 يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the
 Most Merciful.

"Say (O Muhammad): 'He is Allāh (the) One.
 Allāh is Self-Sufficient. He begets not, nor
 was He begotten. And there is none
 comparable unto Him.'"

[Al-Iklās, 112]

- He knows everything.
- He sees everything.
- He hears everything.
- Nothing is hidden from Him.
- He is Kind and Loving. He is Gracious and Merciful.
- He is Clement and Forgiving.
- Allâh has Beautiful Names which indicate His Attributes.
- He is the One Who provides each and every one of His creation with the means to survive. He is the One Who has created everything for our survival like the earth in which crops grow, the sun which provides warmth, water which living things drink from, the air which they breathe and kindling for fire.
- Muslims should turn only to Him in their times of need and sadness.
- Muslims should seek help only from Him.
- He is the One Who is worthy of worship. Nothing else should be worshipped but He. There is no greater sin than *Shirk*, which means to associate partners unto Allâh and believe that they can give us benefit or cause us harm, or worship or seek help from others besides Him.



(Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh)

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Muhammad [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] was the last Prophet. Allâh chose him to reveal His Last Message. He came with complete guidance for mankind. He received the Noble Qur'ân from Allâh through the Angel Jibri.

He was born in Makkah and was orphaned at a young age. He was cared for by his grandfather and then his uncle after his grandfather died.

Muhammad [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] led an honest life, and was known as '*As-Sādiq*' (the truthful) and '*Al-Amin*' (the trustworthy).

He received the first Revelation at the age of forty. He lived in Makkah for thirteen years, and called people to Islam. However, most of the people of Makkah refused to follow him. They made fun of him and tortured him and those who followed him. He suffered a great deal, but continued to preach the Word of Allāh. He was forced to leave Makkah and go to Al-Madinah where the people welcomed him. He lived in Al-Madinah for ten years calling people to obey Allāh. He had to fight those who tried to stop him from spreading the Message of Allāh.

Before he died, the whole of Arabia had accepted Islam. He passed away at the age of sixty-three. This shows that Prophet Muhammad [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] was a human being just like us. He was not a Divine being, but was only a slave of Allāh. Muslims must obey him, respect him, love him, but must not worship him nor attribute to him qualities which only Allāh possesses.

Muslims must follow his excellent example and follow the

Right Path according to his teachings.

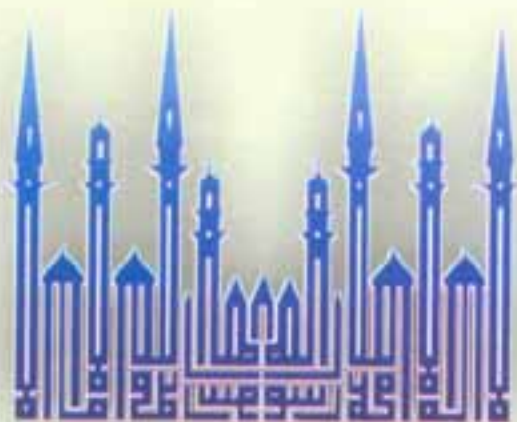
He taught that all men, whether rich or poor, of whatever colour or race, are equal before Allâh. It is only their obedience to Allâh and their good deeds which may make some people better than others. Prophet Muhammad [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] taught us to love, respect and be kind to one another, and to others of Allâh's creation.

He was the last and final Prophet. No Prophet shall come after him. Those who obey Allâh and follow the teachings of His Messenger Muhammad [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] shall be rewarded with Paradise in the Hereafter.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا
وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ

'O Prophet (Muhammad) Verily, We have sent you as a witness, and a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner, and as one who calls to Allâh

[Al-Ahzâb, 33:45,46]



A Muslim must have *Imân*. *Imân* means to have firm belief in six things:

1. The first to believe in Allâh, to believe that He exists, He is One, and He Alone is the Creator, Sustainer and Lord over everything, and He Alone is worthy of worship.

2. The second is to believe in the angels who are also the creation of Allâh. Allâh created them from light, and they always obey Him. They have been assigned various tasks which they carry out faithfully. Some of them were given the task of carrying the Message to the Prophets. Others are assigned to record the good and bad actions of human beings. The number of angels is known only to Allâh, but there are four who are quite well-known to us. They are Jibril, Mikâ'il, 'Izrâ'il and Isrâfil.
3. The third is to believe in Allâh's Prophets. They were His Messengers on this earth, and were responsible for teaching Islam to their people. They came to teach people to do good, and lived their lives according to what they preached. The first man was also the first Prophet, and he was Adam [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him]. The last Prophet was Muhammad [Allah's peace & blessings be upon him]. Some other famous ones are Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma'il (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus) [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon them]. A Muslim must believe in all the Prophets and give them due respect, but they should not be worshipped.
4. The fourth is to believe in the Books of Allâh. Allâh revealed Books to His Prophets. These Books

contain the guidance of Allāh for mankind. The Noble Qur'ān is the Book revealed to our Prophet Muhammad [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him]. The three Books known to us which were revealed before the Qur'ān are the Torah which was revealed to Musa, the Zabur which was sent down to Dawud (David), and the Injil which was given to 'Isa (Jesus) [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon them]. Some people who were disobedient to Allāh have distorted some of these Books to mislead the people. Allāh has protected the Noble Qur'ān from any kind of distortion.

5. The fifth is to believe in life after death. A Muslim has to believe that life in this world will come to an end one day. Everything in this world will perish. Then Allāh will bring all human beings back to life and judge them according to their deeds which they did while they lived on earth. The people who have obeyed Allāh and spent their lives doing good will go to Paradise. There they will have everything good that they could possibly want, as a reward for their good deeds. The people who have been disobedient to Allāh's Commands and have done bad things will go to Hell. There they will be cast into a big Fire as punishment for their bad deeds.
6. The sixth is to believe that everything comes from Allāh. This means that Allāh knows everything that is

going to happen whether it is a good thing or a bad thing. Nothing in this world takes place without His Permission or Knowledge. If something good happens to a Muslim, he should thank Allāh for it. He should be patient and ask Allāh for relief if something bad happens to him.



*"And hold fast, all of you together,
to the Rope of Allāh."*

[Al-Imrān, 3:103]



The Noble Qur’ân

This is the Holy Book which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad [Allâh’s peace & blessings be upon him] as a guidance to mankind. It was revealed to him over twenty-three years. The first revelation came to him when he was contemplating in the cave of Hira.

Then suddenly Angel Jibril appeared to him and asked him to read. The Prophet [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] said, "I cannot read!" The Angel embraced him tightly and then released him saying, "Read!" Again the Prophet [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] said, "I cannot read!" Once again Angel Jibril embraced him tightly and then released him saying:



Iqra' bismi Rabbikal-ladhi khalaq. Khalaqal insaana min 'alaq. Iqra' wa Rabbukal-Akram. Alladhi 'allama bil-qalam. 'Allamal insaana ma lam ya'lam.

"Read in the Name of your Lord Who created! He created man from a clot of blood. Read; and your Lord is the Most Bountiful. He Who has taught by the pen. Taught man what he knew not."

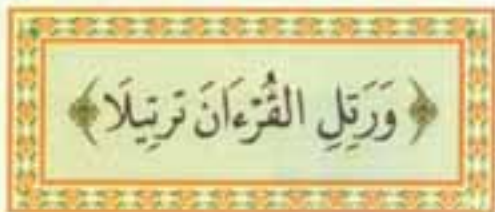
[Al-'Alaq, 96:1-5]

The Prophet [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] was terrified and rushed to his house. He told his wife Khadijah [may Allāh be pleased with her] what had happened. She consoled him and asked him to rest.

The verses of the Qur'ān continued to be revealed to the Prophet [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] telling him to ask the people to follow the Right Path of Islam.

Every time the verses were revealed, the Prophet [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] would order his people to write them down. All verses of the Qur'ān were preserved in this way. Later they were made into a Book which we have today.

The Qur'ān is the Book of guidance for all mankind. It contains all the basic principles of the religion of Islam. It has given the details of the matters of Belief, the duties which are compulsory for Muslims to perform, and a code of conduct which Muslims must follow.



“...and recite the Qur'ān in a slow style”

[Al-Muzzammil, 73:4]

Muslims must recite the Qur'an in Arabic and learn its meaning in their own languages. They must also act according to its teachings.

There are 114 chapters in the Qur'an. Some are very long, and some are short. The Qur'an is divided into 30 parts. This is to make it easy for people to recite one part a day, and finish reciting it in a month. Recitation of the Qur'an and remembering its chapters and verses by heart are good deeds for which a person will be rewarded.



***This is indeed an honourable recital.
In a Book well-guarded.***

[Al-Waqi'ah, 56:77, 78]



The Five Pillars of Islam

You have earlier learnt that Islam is based on Five Pillars. Now let us look at each pillar in turn:

1. *Shahādah*

This is to firmly believe in the heart and declare:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ .

*Ash-hadu An lailaha illallahu wa Ash-hadu
anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasuluhu.*

**"I bear witness that there is no God except Allāh, and
I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger."**

This is the *Shahādah*. It is the very basis of Islam. Once a person declares it, he becomes a Muslim.

The *Shahādah* has two parts. The first part is a declaration that Allāh is the only Lord and Ruler, and He Alone is worthy of worship.

He has no partner, and He cannot be compared with any other thing. Everything which is in this universe is under His Control and works according to His Command.

Mankind is also required to live according to the Commands of Allāh. Allāh loves those who follow His Command. Allāh dislikes those who disobey Him.

The second part of the *Shahādah* is the declaration that Muhammad [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] is the Messenger of Allāh. He was the one who brought the Qur'ān to us. Muslims are required to obey the Prophet [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon him] and follow his example without any hesitation.

Muslims are also required to honour and respect him, and ask Allāh to give him blessings and salutations. Whenever his name is mentioned we must say:



2. Prayer (*Salât*)

This is to pray (perform *Salât*) five times a day. It is the distinguishing feature of Islam. A person abandons prayer at the risk of going out of Islam.

﴿ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْقُوتًا ﴾

"Verily, the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours." [An-Nisa, 4:103]

Prayer is the most essential obligatory duty which a Muslim must perform. This is the most obvious act which a Muslim does to show his obedience to Allâh. *Salât* is also a means of remembering Allâh.

In prayer, a person leaves everything and devotes himself to the worship of Allâh. He does exactly what he has been instructed by Allâh's Messenger [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him]. He changes from one posture to another in a composed manner, focusing his mind on Allâh. He feels that he is standing before Allâh the Almighty. Prayer is indeed a means of bringing mankind closer to Allâh.

In prayer, one stands facing the direction of the *Ka'bah*, bows and kneels before his Lord. He recites the Opening Chapter of the Qur'ân (*Surat Al-Fâtihah*) praising and glorifying Allâh, and asking for His Support and Help. This is *Al-Fâtihah*:

Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Rahim. ﴿بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ﴾

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Athamdu lillaahi Rabbil 'aalamin. ﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِیْنَ﴾

Praise be to Allāh, the Lord of the worlds.

Ar-Rahmaanir-Raheem. ﴿الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ﴾

The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Maaliki yawmiddin. ﴿مٰلِکِ یَوْمِ الدِّیْنِ﴾

The Owner of the Day of Recompense.

Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nasta'een. ﴿اِنَّا لَكَ نَعْبُدُ وَاِنَّا لَكَ نَسْتَعِیْثُ﴾

You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help.

Ihdinas siraatal-mustaqeem. ﴿اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِیْمَ﴾

Guide us to the Straight Path.

*Siraatal-Idheena an'ama
'alayhim ghayril maghdubi
'alayhim waladdeen.* ﴿صِرَاطَ الَّذِیْنَ اَنْعَمْتَ
عَلَيْهِمْ غَیْرِ الْمَغْضُوْبِ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّیْنَ﴾

The Path of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the Path) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.

Because of its importance, every Muslim male or female must learn how to perform *Salât*. Children should start performing it from the age of seven. When they reach the age of ten, their parents should discipline them if they do not do it.

Prayer must be done by all Muslims and in all conditions. Those who cannot stand, can pray sitting down. Those who cannot sit, can do it lying down. Travellers should shorten their prayers.

There are five prayers each day. These are:

- a). *Fajr*, which is observed at dawn before the sun rises.
- b). *Zuhr*, which is observed at noon when the sun starts to decline from the meridian.
- c). *Asr*, which is to be observed in the late afternoon.
- d). *Maghrib*, which is to be observed when the sun sets.
- e). *Isha*, which is offered at night before going to bed.

One can therefore see that a Muslim's day starts and ends with prayer. The first thing a Muslim does when he/she awakes in the morning is to think of Allâh, praising Him and giving Him thanks. At the close of the day after doing all his/her daily activities he/she remembers Allâh in his/her prayer, praising and thanking Him before he/she sleeps.

Prayer may be offered individually or in congregation. When it is performed in a congregation, the people stand in straight rows.

The person who leads the prayer is called the *Imâm*. He stands in front of the rest of the congregation. The congregation follows him in each step of the prayer.

It is best to perform all the five obligatory prayers in congregation.

On Friday, prayer in congregation is compulsory for men. Women may also attend if they like. This Friday prayer is performed in place of the normal noon prayer. Before the prayer, the *Khutbah* (sermon) is given by the *Imâm*. This contains guidance for Muslims as to how to deal with the problems of daily life.

Before performing prayer, a person must make sure that his body, clothes and his place of worship are clean. A special act of cleansing, called *Wudu'* (ablution), must be done before prayer.

Wudu' is performed by first washing the hands. This is followed by rinsing the mouth and nose. Then the face is washed and the forearms up to the elbows. After this, wet hands are passed over the head and inside and outside of the ears. Finally, the feet are washed up to the ankles.

Each time *Wudu'* is made, all these parts should not be washed more than three times except when passing wet hands over the head which is to be done only once.

If a person has done *Wudu'* and then puts on leather socks, he does not need to take them off when he next makes *Wudu'*. He may just pass wet hands over them once.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ
وَأَنَؤُوا الزَّكَاةَ لَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ
وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٢٧٧﴾

"Truly, those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, and perform *As-Salât*, and give *Zakât*, they will have their reward with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve."

[*Al-Baqarah*, 2:277]

3. *Zakât*

Zakât is the third Pillar of Islam. It is a way of doing our duty to other Muslims.

Zakât is also to remind a person that his wealth is not his own, but its real owner is Allâh. This should make a person ready to spend it in accordance with Allâh's Command.

Zakât is an annual payment made by people. It is not a tax imposed by Islam, but a due fixed by Allâh so that the wealth of a person may be purified.

Zakât becomes due on savings which have been kept for one full year. Two and a half percent of the total money is given to those who are in need. For example, if a person has £1000.00 in savings which he has kept for a year, then he will pay £25.00.

Zakât is an act of worship. It is also a way of showing sympathy to those who are less fortunate. It is meant to take away from our hearts greed and the love of money. It is also to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

Zakât purifies one's wealth. Wealth on which *Zakât* has not been paid will be a source of punishment for its owner.



4. Fasting

Fasting means to keep away from eating, drinking and the sexual act from dawn to sunset. Fasting is compulsory for every Muslim during the month of Ramadân.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ
كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ﴾

"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may attain piety."

[Al-Baqarah, 2:183]

Fasting is both a physical and a spiritual exercise. The person who is fasting is required to keep himself away from any act which displeases Allâh. He should not engage in any evil behaviour. He should not say bad things nor quarrel with anyone. If he does not control himself and avoid evil deeds, his fast will not bring him any benefit nor reward from Allâh.

Fasting throughout Ramadân trains one to control the desires. It also teaches one to discipline the behaviour.

Fasting helps one to strengthen his will-power. It also develops a person's endurance and steadfastness.

Fasting provides Muslims with the opportunity to experience the hunger and thirst suffered by many starving people in this world. Only in this way can Muslims learn and understand what it really feels like not to have food or drink. A Muslim will then be able to show sympathy, and be prepared to help and support them. This is why the fasting month of Ramadân is called 'the Month of Endurance and Sympathy'.

Fasting is the true manifestation of obedience to Allâh. The person who is fasting does so for the sake of Allâh. For this reason, Allâh has prepared a great reward for those who fast. They will go into Paradise through a very special gate.

During the month of Ramadân, a special prayer is offered which is called *Tarâwih*. Parts of the Noble Qur'ân are recited during *Tarâwih*. Usually, the recitation of the whole Book is completed by the end of the month.

The month of Ramadân is also important for another reason. In it is a very special night called *Laylat-ul-Qadr*. It was on this night that the Noble Qur'ân was revealed. It is a night full of blessings. Muslims are encouraged to spend that night worshipping and remembering Allâh.

Worship during *Laylat-ul-Qadr* carries the reward of more than one thousand months.

We are not told when exactly in Ramadân that night is, but Allâh's Messenger [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him] said that it was one of the odd-numbered nights in the last ten days of Ramadân. He encouraged Muslims to spend most of their time in worshipping Allâh in Ramadân, especially during the time when they might find *Laylat-ul-Qadr*.

Bismillaahir-

Rahmaanir-Rahim.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Innaa 'anzainahu fi Laylat-il-Qadri

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

Verily, we have sent it (the Qur'ân) down in the Night of Decree.

Wa maa adraka ma Laylat-ul-Qadri

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ

And what will make you know what the Night of Decree is?

*Laylat-ul-Qadri khairum-min
alfi shahrin*

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.

*Tanzazzalul-malaa'ikatu war-ruhu fiha
bi'izni Rabbihim-min kulli amrin*

نَزَّلَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا
بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ

Therein descend the angels and the Spirit (Jibril),
by Allâh's Permission with all decrees.

Salaamun hiya hatta matla'il-fajr

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ

Peace! Until the appearance of dawn. [Al-Qadr. 97]

A day of celebration called '*Eid-ul-Fitr*' comes at the end of Ramadân. It is a day to rejoice the success of completing the month of fasting. It is a happy occasion and is full of joy.

The day starts with a special prayer and reciting the words of praise and glory for Allâh. Before going to the '*Eid*' prayer, every Muslim is required to give *Sadaqat-ul-Fitr* for himself and his dependants.

Sadaqat-ul-Fitr is the giving of either money or food to the poor and needy so that they could satisfy their needs on that day, and join in celebrating the day of joy and happiness. It is also meant to purify fasting in Ramadan from any fault or defect.

The image features a decorative border of orange squares with a grid pattern. In the center, there is a piece of Arabic calligraphy in a dark brown, elegant script. The calligraphy reads 'الذکر منکم افضلکم' (Al-Zakr min-kum af-ful-kum), which is a well-known verse from the Quran. The background of the calligraphy is a lighter, textured orange.

"Verily, the most honourable of you
with Allâh is that (believer)
who is the most righteous of you."

[*Al-Hujurât*, 49:13]

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage)

The fifth Pillar of Islam is to perform *Hajj* or pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Makkah. It is compulsory on Muslims who can afford the expenses and are physically able to undertake the journey. It is obligatory only once in a Muslim's life.

Hajj was performed for the first time by the Prophet Ibrahim and his son Isma'il [Allāh's peace & blessings be upon them]. Ibrahim was ordered by Allāh to call people for pilgrimage. It is in response to his call that Muslims rush to Makkah every year. They carry out the acts of *Hajj* with devotion and sincerity. They confirm their readiness to forsake worldly enjoyment and comfort for the sake of Allāh.

Hajj is the largest annual gathering of Muslims. They come from all over the world to assemble in the Holy Land. They meet one another and exchange good wishes.

Hajj is a true demonstration of the fact that Islam is a universal religion and all Muslims are brothers and equal to one another.

Pilgrims wear the same clothing and gather on the plain of Arafāt. This is a reminder that all mankind will one day gather on the Day of Judgement when they will be

presented to Allāh. They will stand equal before Allāh except in the degree of piety and righteousness. *Hajj* symbolises devotion to Allāh and obedience of His Commands.



* And *Hajj* to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allāh, those who can afford the expenses.*

[*Al-Imrān*, 3:97]



The Mosque

﴿وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

"And the mosques are for Allāh (Alone), so invoke not anyone along with Allāh." [Al-Jinn, 72:18]

In Arabic, a mosque is called '*Masjid*' which means a place of prostration. It is a place of congregational prayer (*Salāt*), but it is also a symbol of feelings of brotherhood, equality, and compassion among the believers in Allāh.

The first mosque was built in Al-Madinah by Prophet Muhammad [Allâh's peace & blessings be upon him]. In fact, this was the first thing which he did upon his arrival in that city. This highlights the importance of mosques in the lives of Muslims.

To indicate the direction of the *Ka'bah* (*Qiblah*) there is generally a closed arch called the *Mihrâb*. To the right of the *Mihrâb*, stands the *Minbar* (pulpit) from which the Friday *Khutbah* (sermon) is delivered.

It is customary for the sacred space to be bright. Indirect sunlight may well stream down from openings surrounding a covering dome. Usually mosques provide facilities for *Wudu'*. A striking feature of purpose-built mosques is a large minaret and a large dome as well.

Mosques should be kept clean. Shoes should be taken off before entering the mosque. Eating and drinking should be avoided as a precaution against spillage and litter. While sitting in the prayer hall, feet should not point towards the direction of *Qiblah*.

People should not talk in loud voices or shout as this would most certainly disturb those in worship. Children should be told and taught to behave in a mosque for the same reason.

People assemble for prayer in the mosque when they hear the *Adhân*. This is the call for prayer made by a man

called the *Mu'adhhdhin*. He loudly proclaims the words of the *Adhân* which are as follows:

Allaahu Akbar. Allaahu Akbar. اللهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allâh is the Greatest. Allâh is the Greatest.

Allaahu Akbar. Allaahu Akbar. اللهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allâh is the Greatest. Allâh is the Greatest.

Ashhadu alla ilaaha ilallaah. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ

I bear witness that there is no God but Allâh.

Ashhadu alla ilaaha ilallaah. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ

I bear witness that there is no God but Allâh.

Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasul-ullaah. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللهِ

Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasul-ullaah.

I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh.

Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasul-ullaah. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللهِ

Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasul-ullaah.

I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh.

Hayya 'alas-salaah. حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ

Come to the prayer.

Hayya 'alas-salaah. حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ

Come to the prayer.

Hayya 'alal-falaah. حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ

Come to the success.

Hayya 'alal-falaah. حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ

Come to the success.

Allaahu Akbar. Allaahu Akbar. اللهُ أَكْبَرُ اللهُ أَكْبَرُ

Allâh is the Greatest. Allâh is the Greatest.

La ilaaha ilallaah. لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ

There is no God but Allâh.



**"And verily, you are
on an exalted standard of character."**

[Al-Qalam, 68:4]

The Manners of a Muslim

You have already learned about the Five Pillars of Islam and the essential duties a Muslim must perform. They are part of the acts of worship (*ibādah*). Islam also lays down rules and regulations about the behaviour of Muslims. Children must obey their parents, be kind and respectful to them. Disobeying parents and showing them disrespect is a very serious sin.

Although both parents must be respected, the mother is the one who deserves extra respect. This is because she was the one who cared for the child when he was a baby.

A Muslim should respect all those who are his elders whether they belong to his family or not. A person should treat those who are younger than him with kindness and affection. One should also try to help others, and must never behave badly towards them by doing them wrong. When a Muslim meets another Muslim, he should exchange greetings by saying:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ

As-salaamu 'alaikum.

"Peace be upon you."

When one is greeted by a Muslim, he should then say:

وَعَلَيْكُمْ السَّلَامُ

Wa 'alaikum us-salaam.

"And upon you be peace."

A Muslim should use his right hand when he eats, and should say before he starts eating:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

Bismillaah

"In the Name of Allāh."

Allâh loves those who are clean, so a Muslim should always try to be clean and tidy. He should also keep his heart free from grudge and hate, or any ill-feeling towards another person.

A Muslim should always think good of another Muslim. He should not be jealous and should not hate others. Muslims should be like brothers and sisters with other Muslims.

The image features a central piece of Arabic calligraphy in a bold, black, stylized script. The text is arranged in three lines: the top line reads 'إِنَّمَا خَلَقْنَا', the middle line reads 'الْإِنْسَانَ أَحْسَنَ تَقْوِيمًا', and the bottom line reads 'فَلَا تَكِبُّوا'. The calligraphy is set against a background of a grid of small, light-colored squares with a subtle red glow.

"Verily, We created man of the best stature."

[Al-Tin, 95:4]

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