

# What is ISLAM & who are MUSLIMS?

The Arabic word "Islam" means the submission or surrender of one's will to the One and only true God worthy of worship - "Allah", and anyone who does so is termed "Muslim".

The total submission of one's will to Allah represents the essence of worship, which is the basic teaching of Allah's divine religion. Islam is the worship of Allah alone and the avoidance of worship directed towards any creation of Allah.

Islam is not a new religion but the final culmination and fulfillment of the same truth that Allah revealed through all His prophets before Prophet Muhammed ﷺ. For a fifth of the world's population, Islam is not just a personal religion but a complete way of living.

Being the fastest growing around the World, the Muslim population consists of more than a billion people from all races, nationalities and cultures.

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Peace be upon him



# WHAT ARE THE PILLARS OF FAITH

To believe in:

**1. Allah** - That Allah The Almighty is One, Unique, unlike His creation, Perfect in every way; Above and not within His creation

**2. Angels** - Made from light, follow Allah's orders perfectly, never make mistakes and are never disobedient to Allah

**3. Divine Books** - Torah (The Book given to Moses), Suhoof (Scriptures of prophets), Zabur (Psalms), Injeel (The book given to Jesus), Qur'an (The book revealed to Muhammed, Peace be upon all of them)

**4. Prophets** - Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, Muhammad, and others mentioned in Qur'an, peace be upon them all.

**5. Day of Judgment** - All of Allah's Creation will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment.

**6. Divine Destiny** - Allah has complete control of all that happens, both good and evil and He has full knowledge of it all.



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# WHAT ARE THE PILLARS OF ISLAM

**The declaration of faith**  
To bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed is the messenger of Allah.

**Prayers**  
To offer prayers (Salah) five times a day as a duty towards Allah. Prayers strengthen and enliven the belief in Allah and inspire a Muslim to a higher morality.

**Fasting in the month Ramadan**  
To abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan. Fasting develops a sound social conscience, patience, unselfishness and will power.

**Zakat**  
To pay annually 2.5 % of one's net saving on which a year has passed as a religious duty to the poorer sections of the community.

**Pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj)**  
To perform Hajj once in a lifetime, if one is financially and physically able.

A person's Islam is deficient without any of the above pillars.



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# Do MUSLIMS believe in all the PROPHETS sent to mankind

Islam is the religion which was given to Adam, the first man and the first prophet of Allah, and it was the religion of all the prophets sent by Allah to mankind.

It is a fundamental requirement for Muslims to believe in all the Prophets of Allah.

Dawud Dawid  
Sulayman Salomon

Ilyas Elisha  
Alyasa Elisha

Yaqub Jacob  
Yusuf Joseph

Shu'ayb Shu'ayb  
Ayyub Job  
Musa Moses

Harun Aaron  
Dhul-Kifl Dhul-Kifl

Adam Adam

Idris Enoch

Nuh Noah

Hud Hud

Salih Salih

Ibrahim Abraham

Ismail Ishmael

Ishaq Isaac

Lu't Lot

Yunus Jonah  
Luhayyah Luhayyah

Yahya John

Isa Jesus  
Muhammed Peace be upon them





# WHICH BELIEFS ARE REJECTED BY ISLAM?

Believing in a god that who created everything and then settled to take well earned rest

Believing that Allah has a son

Believing that two or more gods performed their godly acts together

Believing that Allah managed to splinter himself into many thousands of gods, each with its own scope of work

Believing that Allah needs assistants and courtiers in order to function efficiently

Believing that everything on the earth is a part of Allah himself

Believing in Allah but not accepting that he is the sole sustainer of the universe

Believing that if Allah is very pleased with one of his creatures, he absorbs that person into himself so that the worshipper is now part of the worshipped.

Islam rejects all these principles because Allah is Unique and cannot be compared to His creation or given the qualities of His creation.

Allah says "There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer."  
[Qur'an: Al-Shu'ra: 11]

## WHAT IS THE BIGGEST SIN

According to the Islamic faith the biggest sin is to associate a partner with Allah. This is called Shirk in the Arabic language. The following are the major forms of Shirk:

**Shirk in Allah's person:** This is to give someone else the same status as Allah.  
Example: The belief that Allah has a son

**Shirk in Allah's attributes:** This is to give someone else the qualities and characteristics of Allah.  
Example: To think that someone is just as merciful as Allah

**Shirk in Allah's capabilities:** Allah is capable of doing things, which are unique to him because he is the lord of the universe. To imagine that someone else can also be capable of such things is Shirk. Example: To say that someone other than Allah can create and provide for his creatures, bless their efforts with success or punish them with loss

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## What is the ISLAMIC SOURCE other than the QUR'AN?

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "I have left among you two things; you will never go astray as long as you hold fast to them: the Book of Allah and my *Sunnah*."

The Qur'an is the word of Allah, which was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and recorded by his companions. Apart from the Qur'an, his companions also preserved whatever he uttered or did. This is generally known as *Sunnah*.

The *Sunnah* includes the sayings of the Prophet ﷺ commonly known as *Hadeeth*.

Hadeeth originally means news, a tale, a story, a talk or a report. In the context of Islamic studies, technically it denotes the report of the words, deeds and approval or disapproval of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It is very similar to *Sunnah*; a *Sunnah* is a behavioral concept, while Hadeeth is the words uttered by the Prophet ﷺ or narration of his behavior. Both are interlinked and sometimes identical.

The Qur'an and the *Sunnah* fall under a common title "*wahy*" (i.e. revelation or inspiration); the difference between the two is that the Qur'an is the speech of Allah and a revelation which is recited in the formal prayers (*salah*) while the *Sunnah* is not recited in the formal prayers.

An example of the *Sunnah* is, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "The best of the believers in faith are those who are best in morals, and the best among them are those who are best to their wives."

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# HAS THE QUR'AN BEEN PRESERVED?

Allah has taken the responsibility to preserve the Qur'an :  
"Indeed, We have sent down the *dhikr* (revelation to Muhammad / Qur'an), and surely We will guard it (from corruption)"  
[Qur'an: Al-Hijr: 9]

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had scribes who wrote down the entire revelation. Many of his Companions learned the whole text of the Qur'an, every syllable of it, by heart.

After the demise of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the first Caliph Abu Bakr a close companion of the Prophet assembled all the memorizers and the written records of the Noble Qur'an and with their help had the whole text compiled into a book.

In the time of Caliph Uthman copies of this original version were made and officially dispatched to the capitals of the Islamic World. Two of these copies exist in the world today, one in Istanbul and the other in Tashkent.

Allah the Exalted challenges mankind in the Qur'an to produce even a single verse like in the Qur'an, His Divine Book. Not a single word of the Qur'an has been changed in the past 1400 years since it was revealed, unlike any other book in the World.

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## THE MOST IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

Reading Qur'an, learning it and teaching it, are among the best deeds, as the Prophet ﷺ said: "There should be no envy except between two people, a man to whom Allah has given (knowledge of) the Qur'an, so he recites it night and day, and a man to whom Allah has given wealth, so he spends it (in good deeds) night and day."

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# SCIENCE AND ISLAM

Science has been called one of the greatest achievements of the Muslims, and it was done so as a direct result of Islam. The California state library (one of the biggest in the world) testifies this. The Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ encouraged the gaining of medical knowledge. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "Make use of medical treatment, for Allah has not made a disease without appointing a remedy for it, with the exception of one, namely old age."

The wealth of the Muslim empire was often directed to health care, as Muslim rulers built hospitals throughout their empires. By the 900's CE almost every city in Muslim land boasted a fine hospital where all people were treated regardless of their ability to pay.

Some of the major Muslim scientists of the past like Ibn Sina, Al Zahrawi, Al Jazari, Ibn Al Haytham, Al Khwarizmi, Al Razi, Jabir Ibn Haiyan, Al Zargali and Hasan Al Rammah to name a few, boasted the most ground breaking inventions and discoveries in all the fields of Science.



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# INFLUENCE ON THE WEST

The oldest university in the world which is still functioning is the eleven hundred year-old Islamic university of Fez, Morocco, known as the Qarawiyyin. This old tradition of Islamic learning influenced the West greatly through Spain.

In this land where Muslims, Christians and Jews lived for the most part peacefully for many centuries, translations began to be made in the 11th century mostly in Toledo of Islamic works into Latin often through the intermediary of Jewish scholars most of whom knew Arabic and often wrote in Arabic. As a result of these translations, Islamic thought and through it much of Greek thought became known to the West and Western schools of learning began to flourish.

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# ISLAM

THE RELIGION OF  
KNOWLEDGE

Islam is the religion of knowledge. The first ayah (verse, sign) of the Qur'an to be revealed enjoined reading, which is the key to knowledge.

Allah says in the Qur'an: "Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not" [Qur'an: Al-'Alaq: 1-5]

In Islam, knowledge comes before action; there can be no action without knowledge, as Allah says: "So know (O Muhammad) that Laa ilaaha ill-Allah (none has the right to be worshipped but Allāh), and ask forgiveness for your errors, and also for (the errors of) believing men and believing women" [Qur'an: Muhammad:19]

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The scholars occupy a noble status in Islam, and which is higher than the position of others in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah says:

*"Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge"*

[Qur'an: Al-Mujaadilah 58:11]

Allah praises the scholars, as He says:

*"Say: Are those who know equal to those who know not? It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allāh's Signs and Verses)"*

[Qur'an: Al-Zumar: 9]

Those who have knowledge are the quickest of people to understand the truth and believe in it:

*"And that those who have been given knowledge may know that it (this Qur'an) is the truth from your Lord, so that they may believe therein, and their hearts may submit to it with humility"*

[Qur'an: Al-Hajj: 54]

## THE STATUS OF THOSE WHO SEEK KNOWLEDGE

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# THE HEIRS OF THE PROPHETS

The Messenger ﷺ made seeking knowledge an obligation upon every Muslim. He said that the Islamic scholars are the heirs of the Prophets and that the Prophets did not leave behind Dinars and Dirhams (i.e., money), rather their inheritance was knowledge, so whoever acquires it has gained a great share.

Muhammed ﷺ also said: "Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make a path to Paradise easy for him."

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# MUSLIM CIVILISATION AND KNOWLEDGE

Throughout the history of Islam, Muslims were incited by such verses and Hadeeth to seek knowledge wherever it might be found. During most of its history, Islamic civilization has been witness to a veritable celebration of knowledge.

That is why every traditional Islamic city possessed public and private libraries and some cities like Cordoba and Baghdad boasted of libraries with over 400,000 books. Such cities also had bookstores, some of which sold a large number of titles. That is also why the scholar has always been held in the highest esteem in Islamic society.

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# KNOWLEDGE

Without Action



Concealing  
Knowledge

There is no goodness in knowledge which is not confirmed by action, or words which are not confirmed by deeds.

Allah the Most High says:

"O you who believe! Why do you say that which you do not do? Most hateful it is with Allāh that you say that which you do not do"  
[Qur'an: Al-Saff : 2-3]

"Verily, those who conceal the clear proofs, evidences and the guidance, which We have sent down, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book, they are the ones cursed by Allāh and cursed by the cursers. Except those who repent and do righteous deeds, and openly declare (the truth which they concealed). These, I will accept their repentance. And I am the One Who accepts repentance, the Most Merciful"  
[Qur'an: Al-Baqarah 2:159-160]

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# EDUCATION and UPBRINGING

Parents are duty-bound to support and show kindness and justice to their daughters. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Whosoever brings up well two daughters until they mature, he and I will come on the Day of Judgment as this (and he pointed with his fingers held together)."

A crucial aspect in the upbringing of daughters that greatly influences their future is education. Education is not only a right but a responsibility for all males and females. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim." The word "Muslim" here is inclusive of both males and females.



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# BENEFITS OF TEACHING KNOWLEDGE

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said: "When a man dies, all his deeds come to an end except for three – an ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge or a righteous son who will pray for him."

He also said: "Whoever calls people to right guidance will have a reward like that of those who follow him, without it detracting from their reward in the slightest, and whoever calls people to misguidance will have a burden of sin like that of those who follow him, without it detracting from their burden in the slightest."

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# EMPLOYMENT

With regard to the woman's right to seek employment, it should be stated first that Islam regards her role in society as a mother and a wife as the most sacred and essential one. Neither maids nor baby sitters can possibly take the mother's place as the educator of an upright, complex-free, and carefully-reared child. Such a noble and vital role, which largely shapes the future of nations, cannot be regarded as idleness.

However, there is no decree in Islam that forbids women from seeking employment whenever there is a necessity for it, especially in positions which fit her nature best and in which society needs her most. Examples of these professions are nursing, teaching (especially children), medicine, and social and charitable work.



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# Mapping the WORLD

In Muslim Spain, the passion for keeping travelogues thrived, inspiring the compilation of the most comprehensive World Atlas (the up-side down Atlas) of the time by a highly celebrated Moroccan scholar Al-Shareef Al Idrisi (1099CE-1166CE or 1180CE).

He also made 70 regional maps, which he produced charting previously undocumented territories, the accuracy of which were unrivalled. He plotted the entire continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, north of the Equator two centuries before Marco Polo. He was so remarkable that he was nicknamed the stroke of the Arabs. He described continents joined at Suez and identified mountain ranges including the Mountains of the Moon, and the source of the Nile in present day Uganda. He also determined the circumference of the earth to be about 23,000 miles (it is actually about 25,000 miles). Apart from the distinguished geographers and mapmakers, professional Muslim tourists also contributed their knowledge by providing detailed accounts of their travels.



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CULTURAL CENTRE





# THE MEDICINE OF PROPHET MUHAMMED PART I

The Prophet ﷺ said,  
"There is no disease that  
Allah has created, except  
that He also has created  
its treatment."

More than 1400 years  
ago many cures for the  
human body were pre-  
scribed by the Qur'an and  
Prophet Muhammed ﷺ,  
most of which have been  
discovered by modern Sci-  
ence only recently.

## OLIVE

Allah the Exalted says:  
"I swear by the Fig and  
I swear by the Olive"  
[Qur'an: Al-Teen: 1]

Abu Hurairah narrates  
that the Prophet ﷺ  
said "Eat the olive oil  
and apply it (locally),  
since there is cure for  
seventy diseases in it,  
one of them is Leprosy."

Innumerable uses and  
cures have been report-  
ed for centuries with  
Olive and Olive Oil by  
researchers, scientists  
and doctors.

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# THE MEDICINE OF PROPHET MUHAMMED PART 2

## HIJAMA (CUPPING)

Though an ancient Chinese medical practice, it was popularised outside China and in the West after the advent of Islam.

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ regularly encouraged his companions to practice Hijama for several diseases and to keep healthy.

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said, "If there is anything good in the medicines with which you treat yourselves, it is in the incision of the cupper..."

Cupping has real benefits in treating many ailments like circulatory diseases, blood pressure and infection of the heart muscle, diseases of the chest and trachea, headache and pain in the eyes, pain in the neck and stomach, rheumatic pain in the muscles, some diseases of the heart and chest and also for pain in the joints.

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# THE MEDICINE OF PROPHET MUHAMMED

## PART 3

### BLACK CUMIN SEED

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said "The Black Seed has got cure for all diseases except AlSaam". He was asked, 'What is Al Saam?', He said 'Death'"

Black Cumin seeds have increasingly amazed scientists during research. It has been successful in treating many diseases like diabetes, flatulence, insomnia, skin conditions, hypertension, diarrhoea, asthma, inflammation, pain and fever.

### HONEY

Allah The Merciful says: "...there comes forth from their (bees) bellies, a drink of varying colour wherein is healing for men. Verily, in this is indeed a sign for people who think." [Qur'an: The Bee: 69]

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Healing is in three things: A gulp of honey, cupping, and branding with fire (cauterizing). But I forbid my followers to use branding with fire."

Honey has been instrumental in the treatment of innumerable diseases. Clinical observations and experimental studies have established that honey has effective anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. It painlessly removes pus, scabs and dead tissues from wounds and stimulates new tissue growth, apart from being a great moisturizer and skin rejuvenator used in several beauty products.

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# BARJEEL

## TRADITIONAL WIND TOWER

Al-Bor Al-Kashteel, wind-tower, was used in many parts of the Gulf region. It was a tall structure with vertical openings in all directions; with internal walls arranged diagonally so that any breeze is forced downwards and up again before it can escape. This creates a circulation of air in rooms used in the summer. Rooms used in winter were not provided with wind-towers.

Wind-towers are square in plan, showing an X configuration of interior planes. They were built around an armature of wooden poles, which stabilize and reinforce the structure, and whose projecting ends were usually left to serve as scaffolding for cleaning and maintenance. The top half of the wind-tower was an enclosed funnel that accelerated the descending air into the room below. Al-Barjeel became a symbol of architecture in the Gulf region, and provided a satisfactory solution for bringing air inside the rooms while being protected against the harmful sun.

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Allah the Almighty says  
"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty, we provide for them and for you. Indeed their killing is ever a great sin."  
[Qur'an: Al-Isra':31]

Islam encourages Muslims to marry and procreate. Regardless of the method - birth control is prohibited if it is done from the fear of poverty, or of responsibilities of parenthood, etc.

Temporary birth control is permissible only for benefits such as spacing pregnancies, breast feeding and so on.

Permanent contraception is allowed if the woman's life is under risk due to pregnancy. Infanticide or foeticide is completely prohibited in Islam.

Abortion is only permissible in situations where continuing the pregnancy would result in the mother's certain death according to available sound medical opinion.



# FAMILY PLANNING





# Marriage

IN OUR

# SOCIETY



Allah the Exalted says:  
"And among His signs is this, that He created for you wives from amongst yourselves that you may find comfort in them and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily in this are signs for a people who reflect."  
[Qur'an: Ar-Rum:21]

Islam defines marriage in simple terms; as an institution that is a contract between a woman and a man enabling them to seek pleasure and pleasant companionship from one another, raise a pious family and live as part of a sound society.

What is most characteristic of the Islamic position on marriage is that apart from fulfilling the above functions, it helps complete one's religion.



Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said, "The best of you is the one who is best to his family."

The family is the foundation of Islamic society. The peace and security offered by a stable family is greatly valued and deemed essential for the spiritual growth of its members. A harmonious social order is created by the existence of extended families and by valuing children.

Allah The Most Gracious says:

O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him He created his mate (Eve). And from them both He created many men and women and fear Allah through Whom you demand your mutual rights. And do not cut the relations of the wombs. Surely, Allah is ever a watcher over you.  
[Qur'an: AnNisaa':1]

## Why is the **FAMILY** so important to **MUSLIMS?**



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# RIGHTS of the PARENTS

## THE CHILD'S DUTIES

The child's responsibility to his parents is summed up very beautifully in the following verses of the Qur'an:

Allah the Most Merciful says:  
"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your lifetime, say not to them even a word of disrespect nor shout at them, but address them in terms of honour."

And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy and say:  
"My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was small."  
[Qur'an: Al-Isra':23-24]

"And We have enjoined upon man to be good to his parents. With difficulty upon difficulty did his mother bear him and wean him for two years. Show gratitude to Me and to your parents; to Me is your final return."  
[Qur'an: Luqman:14]



# RIGHTS of CHILDREN

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, "Every child is born on his fitrah (nature, as a Muslim), his parents change him to Christian, Jew or fire worshipper..."

The Qur'an, recognising the natural love and concern of parents for their offspring, contains references to the parent's duties upon their children. The Qur'an also recognises that parents are not always immune from negligence or over protectiveness. Islam denotes the following rights for a child:

- *Right to life and equal opportunities*
- *Right to protection and care*
- *Right to proper upbringing and education*
- *The right to legitimacy*
- *Adoption*

In an Islamic society, responsibility for and compassion towards children is a religious responsibility.

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The Muslim's  
view  
of the

# ELDERLY & DEATH

Old Peoples' Homes are virtually unknown in the Muslim world. The strain of caring for one's parents during this most difficult time of their lives is considered an honour, a blessing and an obligation.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our young ones and respect our old ones."

When a Muslim dies, he is washed usually by a family member, wrapped in a clean white cloth and buried with a simple prayer - preferably the same day. Muslims are highly recommended to attend funerals as one of the final services they can offer for their relatives and to take it as an opportunity to remember their own brief existence here on Earth and the Hereafter.



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# Neighbourly relations in ISLAM

Good relations with one's neighbours are essential for the development of a peaceful and harmonious community and are emphasised so much that the Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said:

"Angel Jibreel continued to recommend me to treat neighbours kindly and politely, so much so that I thought that he would order me to make them my inheritors."

Stated below are some other statements of the Prophet ﷺ highlighting a few more of these rights:

"By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah he does not believe! By Allah he does not believe! (he is not a Muslim), the one whose neighbour does not feel safe from his evil."

"Anyone who believes in Allah and the last day should not harm his neighbour, should entertain his guests generously and speak what is good or keep quiet."

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# BEHAVIOUR *towards* RELATIVES

Allah the Most Merciful says  
"Al-Birr is the quality of ones who believe in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, His books and His prophets; spending his wealth, inspite of theirlove for it on their relatives, orphans, the poor, the wayfarer, those who ask and to set slaves free; who perform prayers and give the *Zakāt* (charity); who fulfil their covenant, who arepatient in extreme poverty and sickness and in the time of war. Such are the people of the truth and they are *AlMuttaqūn* (the pious)".  
[Qur'an: Al Baqarah: 177]

Muslims are enjoined to support needy and deserving relatives. Failure to discharge this duty is considered ingratitude and disrespect for blood ties.

A Muslim is required to be kind to his or her relatives of whatever degree. They are bound together by kinship since they are supporters and heirs of one another.



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# MODESTY AND *Social* INTERACTION

The parameters of proper modesty for males and females (dress and behaviour) are based on Revelation (the Qur'an and prophetic sayings) and, as such, are regarded by believing men and women as divinely-based guidelines with legitimate aims and divine wisdom behind them. They are not male- or female-imposed, or socially imposed restrictions.

It is interesting to know that even the Bible encourages women to cover their head:

*"If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head."*

[1 Corinthians 11:6]

An artistic illustration of several hands of different skin tones reaching towards a central glowing orb. The orb is bright and surrounded by a soft, golden light. The hands are positioned as if they are collectively holding or supporting the orb. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient.

# Manners OF INTERACTING WITH OTHERS

Allah the Exalted says:  
"Friends on that Day (the Day of Judgement) will be foes to one another except the Muttaqun (those Muslims who fear Allah and abstain from all kinds of sins and evils prohibited in Islam and perform all kinds of good deeds ordained by Him)"  
[Qur'an: Al-Zukhruf: 67]

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, "The best amongst you are the ones who are best in manners."

"Do not hate one another, do not be jealous of one another, do not turn your backs on one another (i.e. do not cut ties from one another and be Allah's slaves – brothers unto one another" and "it is not permissible for a Muslim to forsake his brother for more than three days."

It is prohibited to call each other by disapproving and insulting nick names.

"...nor insult one another by nick names. How bad it is to insult one's brother after having faith."  
[Qur'an: Al-Hujurat: 11]

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# ETIQUETTES OF THE HOST & THE GUEST

Allah's Messenger ﷺ outlined certain guidelines dealing with the host and the guest:

"The Muslim has five rights upon another: answering the salaam, visiting the sick, following the funeral procession, accepting an invitation and saying *Yarhamuka Allah* (may Allah have mercy upon you) to the one who says *Al hamdu lillah* (All Praise be to Allah) after sneezing."

One should not go beyond reasonable means or burden himself in order to entertain his guests. It is forbidden to be a spendthrift or a miser.

When the meal is over, the guest should supplicate for the host. One of the supplications taught by the Prophet ﷺ is:

"O Allah! Feed him who fed me and provide him with drink who provided me with drink."



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# Manners of GREETING

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ described many etiquettes of meeting people, some of which are listed below:

Shake hands with one another (men with men, women with women); any hatred that exists among you will go away; give gifts to one another, you will end up loving one another and any enmity that exists among you will go away.

It is forbidden for a man to shake the hand of a woman and vice versa. It is forbidden to stand and greet or honour one who is seated - because it was the tyrants who would make their subjects stand before them in this manner.

When one greets another, it is forbidden to bow to him or prostrate to him. These are acts that signify a great deal of glorification and worship for its object and these acts are only for the Creator, Allah.





# MANNERS OF SPEECH

With regards to speech, Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said:

"Whoever guarantees for me (to protect) what is between his jawbones and what is between his legs (i.e. he controls and uses his tongue and his private parts only for what is lawful), then I guarantee him Paradise."

"The signs of a hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he promises, he breaks his promise; when he is trusted, he betrays his trust."

"The believer is not a slanderer nor does he curse nor use lewd and base language."

"Whoever swears by other than Allah has disbelieved and associated partners with Allah in worship."

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# MANNERS OF SEEKING PERMISSION TO ENTER

Allah the Exalted says:  
"O you who believe! Enter not  
houses other than your own  
until you have asked permis-  
sion"  
[Qur'an: Nur: 27]

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ  
said "If one of you asks per-  
mission to enter the private  
property of another three  
times without permission  
being granted to him, then  
he should leave."

It is forbidden to look into  
someone's house without his  
permission. The Prophet of  
Allah ﷺ said "Were a  
man to look at you in your  
home or private property  
without permission and were  
you then to pelt him with  
pebbles and knock out his  
eye - there would be no sin  
upon you."

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# MANNERS of visiting *the Sick*

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that whoever visits an ailing Muslim then Angels pray over him.

The visitor should not stay too long with the sick person as it might be burdensome for the patient who needs rest, unless the patient desires otherwise.

From the proper etiquettes is to ask the patient of his situation and sickness and to say comforting words to him.

It is recommended for the visitor to supplicate for him with one of the supplications taught by the Prophet ﷺ such as "Have patience (since sickness wipes out sins), may it be purification if Allah wills."



# ETIQUETTES OF MEETING others

Allah the Most Merciful says:

"But when you enter houses, greet one another with a greeting from Allah (i.e., say Assalamu 'alaikum – peace be upon you) blessed & good."

[Qur'an: Nur: 61]

It is recommended to initiate the greetings of peace. It is compulsory to return the greetings. "The rights of a Muslim upon another Muslim are six...if you meet a Muslim then extend to him greetings of peace..."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said "The better of the two is the one who initiates the greetings of peace"

Before one parts from a gathering it is recommended for him to give greetings of peace.

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# Manners OF EATING & DRINKING

A Muslim says *Bismillah* (in the name of Allah) before eating or drinking and praises Allah by saying *Al hamdu lillah* (All Praise be to Allah) after the meal.

"When one of you eats then let him eat with his right hand and if he drinks, then let him drink with his right hand for the *Shaytan* (devil) eats with his left hand and drinks with his left hand."

The Prophet ﷺ once advised a child who was eating in a group from one plate to eat from what was nearest to him in the dish and not to let his hands wander around.

One should not find fault in food nor scorn it. When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did not like something he kept quiet and did not eat it.

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# MANNERS OF ADORNMENT & ATTIRE

It is compulsory to cover at least one's private areas (auraa) of the body. A mans auraa is from his navel to his knees. A woman's auraa is her entire body except for her hands and face.

It is forbidden for men to imitate women and for women to imitate men in clothing, speech, manner of walking, etc...

If one is blessed with wealth, the effects of that blessing should be seen in his clothes without going to the extremes of extravagance. One should dress in his best clothes while offering his prayers.

It is compulsory for men to grow their beards and trim their moustaches so as to distinguish them from women and effeminate men.



# MANNERS of TRAVELLING

The Prophet ﷺ once said "Were people to know what I know about a person being alone, no rider would travel alone during the night time."

A Muslim traveller is recommended to take advantage of the time he has during his journey by supplicating for himself, his parents, his family, for all those whom he loves and for the Muslims. He should supplicate with persistence and humility; for the traveller's supplications are answered by Allah.

Certain obligatory prayers are to be shortened during a journey. It was the Sunnah of the Messenger ﷺ to offer voluntary prayers during the journey while seated on his mount.

It is disliked for a person to return from a journey without informing his family of his arrival. That allows his wife to prepare herself for his arrival.

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*Ka'b* in Arabic means cube and *Ka'bah* literally means a high place of respect and prestige.

The *Ka'bah* is a one-room stone structure in Makkah in Saudi Arabia. It is in the middle of the Sacred Mosque (*Masjid al Haram*). It is the direction that Muslims face during their five daily prayers. This unites Muslims, praying to the one true God, turning towards one direction - the sacred house of Allah, no matter where they are.

The *Ka'bah* is the first house that was built for the worship of Allah.  
Allah the Most High says: "Verily, the first house of worship appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing and guidance for all that exists".  
[Qur'an: Aal 'Imran: 96]

# WHAT IS THE KA'BAH ?



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When Ismail was born to Hajrah, Allah commanded Ibrahim عليه السلام to take Hajrah and his son to valley of Makkah. After leaving Hajrah and his son there he used to visit them regularly. On one of his visits, Ibrahim عليه السلام came to Ismail and said "Allah has commanded me to build a house here" – pointing to a small rise in the land that was higher than the land around it.

Then they laid the foundations of the House and Ismail started to bring the stones and Ibrahim started to build. When the structure got higher, Ismail brought the stone which is 'the station of Ibrahim' today and put it down. Ibrahim عليه السلام stood on it and carried on the building work with Ismail handing the stones to him. They were both saying while going around the house:

"Our Lord! Accept this service from us. Verily, You are the All-Hearer the All-Knower."  
[Qur'an: Al Baqarah:127]

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# DIMENSIONS OF THE KA'BAH

The current height of the Ka'bah is 12 meters, 15cm and its total size is 58.25 square meters.

The inside of the Ka'bah is 13 x 9 meters.

The Ka'bah's walls are one meter wide. The floor inside is 2.2 meters higher than the outside - where people perform Tawaaf (circumambulation).

The ceiling and roof are two levels made out of wood. They were reconstructed with teak which is capped with stainless steel. The walls are all made of stone. The stones inside are unpolished, while the ones outside are polished.

#### Measurements:

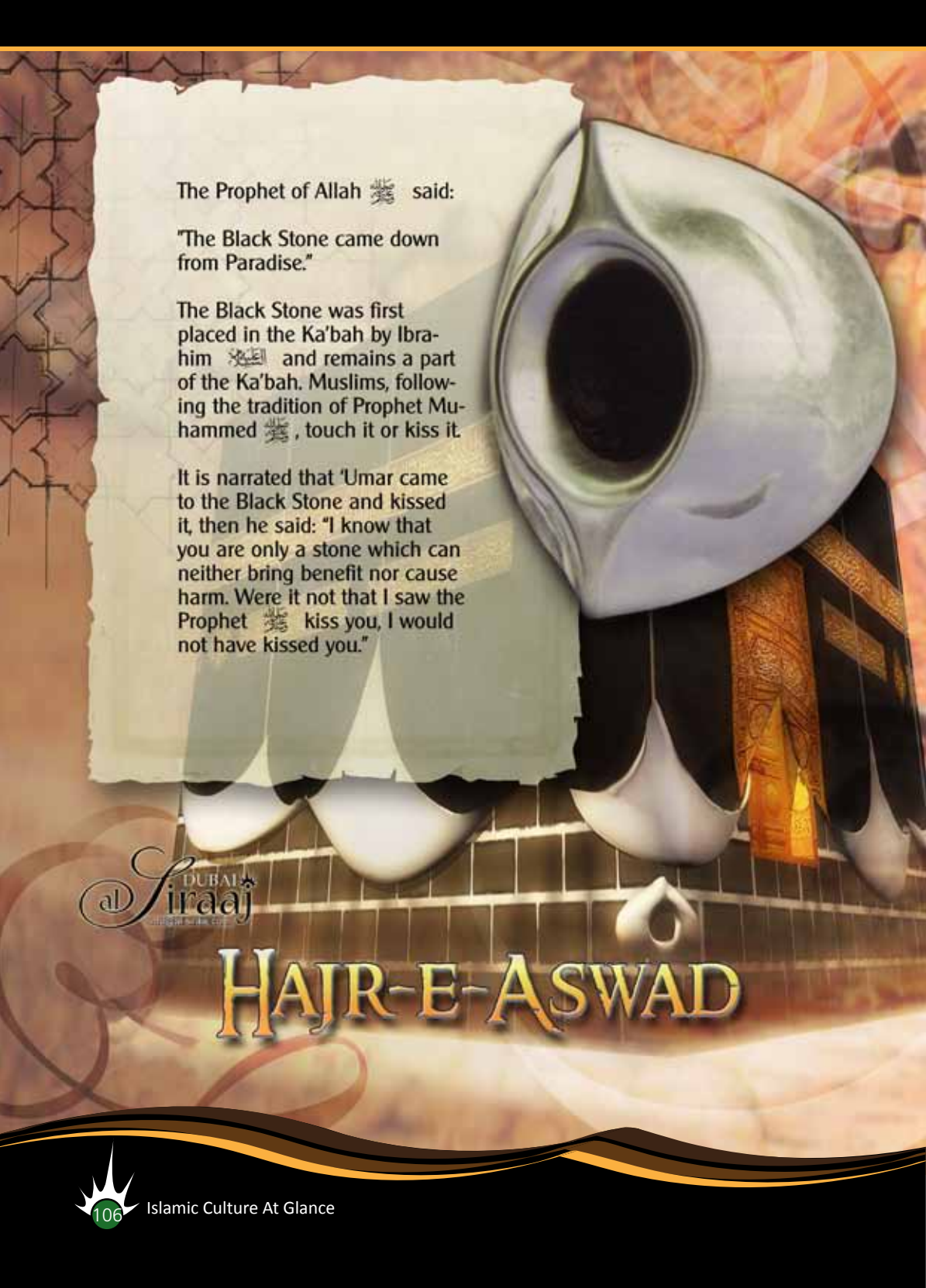
From the black stone to the northern corner = 11.68m  
From the northern corner to the western corner = 9.90m  
From the western corner to the Yemeni corner = 12.04m  
From the Yemeni corner to the black stone = 10.18m  
Height of the Ka'bah = 13.018m



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The Prophet of Allah ﷺ said:

"The Black Stone came down from Paradise."

The Black Stone was first placed in the Ka'bah by Ibrahim ؑ and remains a part of the Ka'bah. Muslims, following the tradition of Prophet Muhammed ﷺ, touch it or kiss it.

It is narrated that 'Umar came to the Black Stone and kissed it, then he said: "I know that you are only a stone which can neither bring benefit nor cause harm. Were it not that I saw the Prophet ﷺ kiss you, I would not have kissed you."

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# HAJR-E-ASWAD

Prophet Muhammed ﷺ told us: "The stone is the Station of Ibrahim. Allah had made it soft and a mercy. Ibrahim would stand on it and Ismail would hand the stones up to him"

During Hajj, Muslims offer prayer at this station in obedience to the order of Allah in the Qur'an: "And take you (people) the Maqam (station) of Ibrahim as a place of prayer" [Qur'an: Al Baqarah: 125]



# MAQAM -E- IBRAHIM

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# THE ORIGIN OF THE ZAMZAM WELL

PART I

Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام brought his wife Hajar and their son Ismail, who was still suckling, and left them at the site of present day Makkah. They sat under a lone tree at the place of Zamzam, then an uninhabited and waterless place.

Ibrahim عليه السلام left a bag of dates and a goatskin of water with them and turned to walk away. Hajar asked, "O Ibrahim, why are you leaving us in this barren valley? Has Allah commanded you to do so?" He answered, "Yes." Thereupon Hajar said, "Allah will not let us perish."

Ibrahim عليه السلام left and when he reached a point when he no longer could see them, he supplicated, "O Lord, I have left my family in a barren valley by Your Sacred House, in order that they may establish regular prayer; so fill the hearts of some among men with love for them and feed them with fruits so they may give thanks."  
[Qur'an: Ibrahim: 37]

The effect of his supplication is obvious in the Arabian Peninsula till today!

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# THE ORIGIN OF THE ZAMZAM WELL

PART 2

Hajar sat under the tree with her baby and soon her provisions were finished and her milk dried up. Ismail grew weaker until she couldn't bear to look at him. At this she stood on the hill of Safa, looking into the valley in case a caravan passed by. She then struggled across the valley to reach the hill of Marwah, again scanning the horizon for some help.

Hajar ran between the hills seven times, and then from one of the hills she saw the Angel digging with one of his wings at the spot where Zamzam now stands. While the Angel started to dig, a spring of water gushed forth.



# THE ORIGIN OF THE ZAMZAM WELL

PART 3

Hajar made a basin for the spring and collected some water in the goatskin container for her and the infant Ismail. The water continued to bubble up unchecked. The Angel said, "Fear no loss, for this is the site of Allah's House which the boy and his father shall build..."

The area around the small pond of Zamzam flourished in the years to come. Passing by trade caravans stopped at it, not believing their eyes and some stayed there. Hajar was now the owner of the well, and thus Allah the Most Merciful did not let them perish.

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The well of Zamzam is 4 meters wide with an inside covering of 84 cms of stone on the sides. There are two openings plus a 17 meter deep basin carved out of the mountain stone. The structure has changes very little over the years, except that there are about 21 outpourings, from the building stones.

The Zamzam water is carried back by the millions of pilgrims to almost every part of the world, throughout the year. It has various health benefits, and many cases of miraculous recoveries are reported every year.

## MEASUREMENTS of the well of Zamzam

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# THE RE-DISCOVERY OF THE ZAMZAM WELL

Generations later, the well was lost underground. Few years prior to Prophet Muhammed's ﷺ birth, his grandfather Abdul Motalib who lived in Makkah was shown in a dream, the location of Zamzam to be dug.

Thus the Zamzam was re-discovered and Abul Motalib became the owner and provider of the water to those who came to Ka'bah in Makkah for the traditional pilgrimage, even before Islam (the religion of Ibrahim) was revived by Prophet Muhammed ﷺ.

Thus Allah the Almighty raised the status of the shepherd Abdul Motalib in his society, making him one of the most sought after and respected men amongst all the tribes in Makkah.

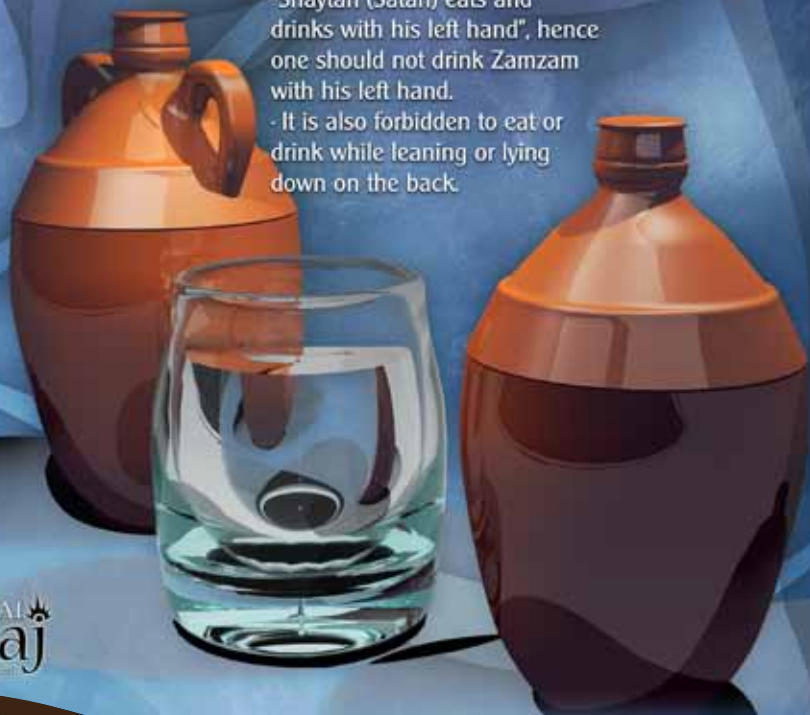
  
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# ETIQUETTES OF Drinking ZAMZAM

The etiquettes of eating and drinking which was outlined by Prophet Muhammed ﷺ can be well applied while drinking the blessed water of Zamzam.

- It was the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammed ﷺ to drink water in three separate breaths.
- Puffing or blowing in the cup while drinking is disliked.
- One should say "Bismillah" (In the Name of Allah), before drinking.
- One can make supplications for himself and his fellowmen before drinking the blessed Zamzam.
- Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said "Shaytan (Satan) eats and drinks with his left hand", hence one should not drink Zamzam with his left hand.
- It is also forbidden to eat or drink while leaning or lying down on the back.



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# BENEFITS OF *Zamzam* PART I

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best water on the face of the earth is the water of Zamzam; it is a kind of food and a healing from sickness."

It was reported that the Prophet ﷺ drank it, did ablution with it and poured it on his head. He used to carry Zamzam water in small vessels and large containers in order to pour it on the sick and give it to them to drink.

A companion of the Prophet ﷺ called Abu Dhar Al Ghaffari survived drinking only the water of Zamzam for a whole month. Ironically it also made him so fat that his stomach bulged with ripples. Prophet Muhammed ﷺ thus remarked: "Verily Zamzam is food."

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# BENEFITS OF *Zamzam* PART 2

One of the companions said: "We used to call it al-Shabbaa'ah (satisfying) and it helped us to take care our families (i.e., it was filling and helped them to do without food, it was also sufficient to nourish children)".

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: "The water of Zamzam is for whatever it is drunk for." Throughout the ages people have experienced that when they drank it with the intention of fulfilling some need such as healing from sickness or being freed from poverty and distress, Allah fulfilled these hopes.

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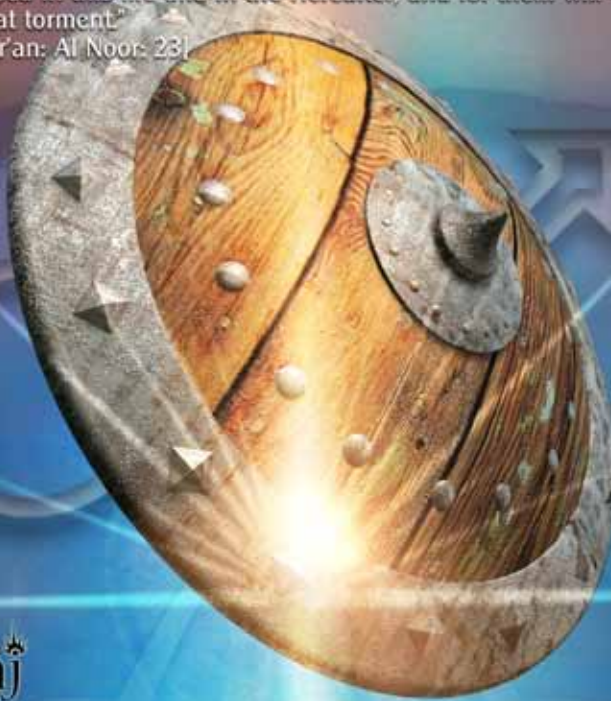


# PROTECTION of WOMEN

Islam protects women from oppression and false accusations:  
Allah says:

"And those who accuse chaste women, and produce not four witnesses, flog them with eighty stripes, and reject their testimony forever; they indeed are the *Fasiqun* (liars, rebellious, disobedient to Allah)."  
[Qur'an: Al Noor: 4]

"Verily, those who accuse chaste women, who never even think of anything touching their chastity and are good believers, are cursed in this life and in the Hereafter, and for them will be a great torment."  
[Qur'an: Al Noor: 23]





# KINDNESS to WOMEN

Islam propagates high esteem and respect to be delivered to women, starting from the mother, who is the first woman that one comes in contact with.

A man came to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and said, "O Messenger of Allah! Who among the people is the most worthy of my good behaviour?" The Prophet ﷺ said: "Your mother." The man said, "Then who?" The Prophet ﷺ said: "Then your mother." The man further asked, "Then who?" The Prophet ﷺ said: "Then your mother." The man asked again, "Then who?" The Prophet ﷺ said: "Then your father."

The mutuality and complementarities of husband and wife does not mean subservience by either one to the other. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ instructed Muslims regarding women: "I commend you to be good to women", and "The best among you are those who are best to their wives."

The Qur'an urges husbands to be kind and considerate to their wives. Allah says in the Qur'anic chapter called The Women:

"And live with them (women) in kindness; for if you dislike them, perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good." [Qur'an: Al Nisaa':19]



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WHO IS SUPERIOR

# MAN OR WOMAN?

Islam is quite clear about the issue of the claimed superiority or inferiority of any human, male or female. The sole basis for superiority of any person over another is piety and righteousness not gender, colour, or nationality.

Allah says:

“O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you with Allāh is that (believer) who has At-Taḳwa [i.e. one of the Muttaḳūn (pious)]. Verily, Allāh is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

[Qur'an: Al Hujurat: 13]



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# Is WOMAN BLAMEWORTHY?

The Qur'an does not blame woman for the "fall of man," nor does it view pregnancy and childbirth as punishments for "eating from the forbidden tree." On the contrary, the Qur'an depicts Adam and Eve as equally responsible for their sin in the Garden, never singling out Eve for blame. Both repented, and both were forgiven [see the Qur'an 2:36-37 and 7:19-27].

In fact, in one verse Adam specifically was blamed by Allah: "Then they both ate of the tree, and so their private parts appeared to them, and they began to stick on themselves the leaves from Paradise for their covering. Thus did Adam disobey his Lord, so he went astray." [Qur'an: Ta Ha:121]

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# BIRTH OF A GIRL

The Qur'an rebukes the frigid attitude of some parents upon hearing the news of the birth of a girl instead of a boy.

Allah says:

"And when one of them is informed of (the birth of) a female, his face becomes dark, and he suppresses grief. He hides himself from the people because of the ill of which he has been informed. Should he keep it in humiliation or bury it in the ground? Certainly, evil is what they decide."

[Qur'an: Al Nahl: 58-59]

With the advent of Islam the cruel pagan practice of female infanticide, was demolished by Prophet Muhammed ﷺ.

Allah says:

"And when (on the Day of judgement) the girl (who was buried alive) is asked, for what sin she was killed?"

[Qur'an: Al Takweer: 8-9]

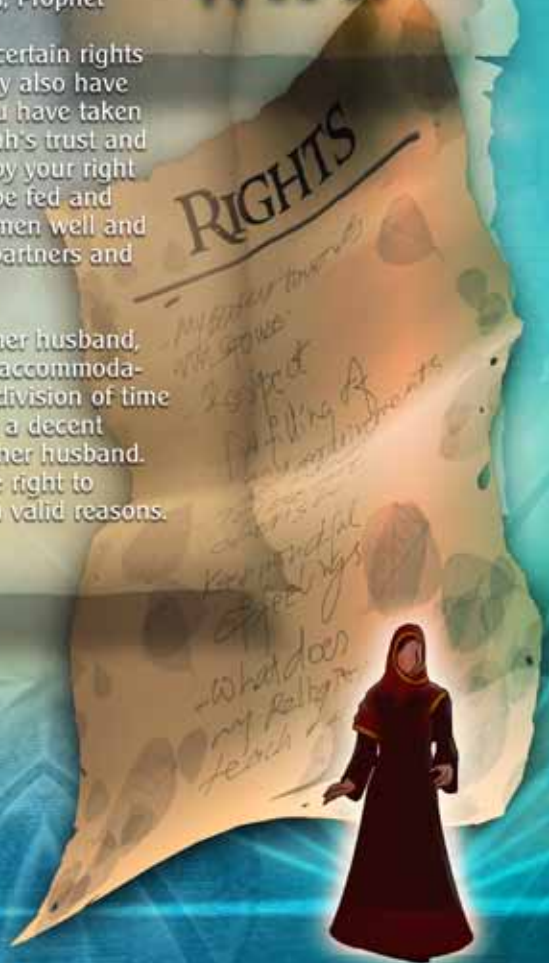


# RIGHTS OF A WIFE

Allah the Everlasting says:  
"And live with them (women) honourably"  
[Qur'an: al-Nisa:19]

In the last sermon before his death, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, said:  
"O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers."

The wife has financial rights over her husband, namely - the dowry, spending and accommodation. She also has the right to fair division of time between co-wives, being treated in a decent manner and not being harmed by her husband. Both the man and woman hold the right to dissolve the marriage contract with valid reasons.



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# RIGHTS OF A HUSBAND

Allah the Sublime has made the man a protector and maintainer of the woman by taking care of her just as guardians take care of their charges - by virtue of the physical and mental faculties that Allah has given to men and the financial obligations that He has enjoined upon them.

## RIGHTS

Allah the Irresistible says:  
"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women because Allah has made one of them to excel the other (in responsibility) and because they spend to support them from their means" [Qur'an: al-Nisaa:34]

The main obligation of the wife in a marital relationship is to contribute to the happiness of the marriage, to maintain the home and to raise their children to be the next generation of pious Muslims.

A wife is required to obey her husband in everything except in wrongdoing - since there is no obedience to any created being if it involves disobedience to the Creator.



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# THE RIGHT TO POSSESS PROPERTY

Islam 1400 years ago, decreed a right of which women were deprived both before Islam (and after it in non-Islamic societies, as late as this century), the right of independent ownership.

The Islamic Law recognizes the full property rights of women before and after marriage. They may buy, sell, or lease any or all of their properties at will. For this reason, Muslim women may keep their maiden names after marriage, an indication of their independent property rights as legal entities.

Prophet Muhammed's first wife Khadeeja was known as a successful business woman in Makkah.



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