**Islam**

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**Islam** (English pron.: [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈɪzlɑːm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English);[[note 1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-1#cite_note-1) [Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): الإسلام‎ *al-ʾislām* IPA: [[ælʔɪsˈlæːm]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_Arabic) ( [listen](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e5/Ar-al_islam.ogg))) is a [monotheistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monotheistic) and [Abrahamic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic_religions) [religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion) articulated by the [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran), a [text](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_text#Islam) considered by its adherents to be the [verbatim](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/verbatim) word of [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): الله‎ [*Allāh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allah)) and by the teachings and normative example (called the [*Sunnah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah) and composed of [*Hadith*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith)) of [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad), considered by them to be the last [prophet of God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam). An adherent of Islam is called a [*Muslim*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim).

Muslims believe that God is [one and incomparable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawhid) and the [purpose of existence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purpose_of_life) is to love and serve God. Muslims also believe that Islam is the complete and universal version of a [primordial faith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_true_faith) that was revealed at many times and places before, including through [Abraham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Abraham), [Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Moses) and [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_in_Islam), whom they consider [prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam). They maintain that the previous messages and revelations have been partially [misinterpreted or altered](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahrif) over time, but consider the Arabic Qur'an to be both the unaltered and the final revelation of God. Religious concepts and practices include the [five pillars of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam), which are basic concepts and obligatory acts of [worship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worship), and following [Islamic law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia), which touches on virtually every aspect of life and society, providing guidance on multifarious topics from [banking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_banking) and [welfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat), to [warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_military_jurisprudence) and the [environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_ethics#Environmentalism).

Most Muslims are of two [denominations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches), [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni) (75–90%), or [Shia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia) (10–20%). About 13% of Muslims live in [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia), the largest Muslim-majority country, 25% in [South Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia), 20% in the [Middle East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East), and 15% in [Sub-saharan Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Africa). Sizable minorities are also found in [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), and the [Americas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_the_Americas). Converts and immigrant communities are found in almost every part of the world (see [Islam by country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_by_country)). With about 1.57 billion followers or 23% of [earth's population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population), Islam is the [second-largest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups). There is no exact data on the conversion rates to any religion as could be seen on the page [Claims to be the fastest-growing religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claims_to_be_the_fastest-growing_religion).

**Etymology and meaning**

*Further information:* [*S-L-M*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-L-M)

Islam is a verbal noun originating from the [triliteral root](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semitic_root) s-l-m which forms a large class of words mostly relating to concepts of wholeness, safeness and peace. In a religious context it means "voluntary submission to God". *Muslim*, the word for an adherent of Islam, is the [active participle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_participle) of the same verb of which *Islām* is the [infinitive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinitive). Believers demonstrate submission to God by serving God and following his commands, and rejecting [polytheism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polytheism). The word sometimes has distinct connotations in its various occurrences in the Qur'an. In some verses ([*ayat*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayat)), there is stress on the quality of Islam as an internal conviction: "Whomsoever God desires to guide, He expands his breast to Islam." Other verses connect *islām* and [*dīn*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C4%ABn) (usually translated as "religion"): "Today, I have perfected your religion (*dīn*) for you; I have completed My blessing upon you; I have approved Islam for your religion." Still others describe Islam as an action of returning to God—more than just a verbal affirmation of faith. In the [Hadith of Gabriel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_of_Gabriel), *islām* is presented as one part of a triad that includes [*imān*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iman_%28concept%29) (faith), and [*ihsān*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihsan) (excellence), where *islām* is defined theologically as [Tawhid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawhid), historically by asserting that Muhammad is messenger of God, and doctrinally by mandating [five basic and fundamental pillars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_pillars_of_Islam) of practice.

**Articles of faith**

Main articles: [Aqidah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqidah) and [Iman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iman_%28concept%29)

**God**

Main articles: [Allah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allah) and [God in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam)

Islam's most fundamental concept is a rigorous monotheism, called [tawhīd](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawh%C4%ABd) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): توحيد‎). God is described in chapter 112 of the Qur'an as: "Say: He is God, the One and Only; God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him." ([112:1-4](http://www.usc.edu/org/cmje/religious-texts/quran/verses/112-qmt.php#112.1-4)) Muslims repudiate the Christian doctrine of the [Trinity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity) and divinity of [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Jesus), comparing it to [polytheism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polytheism).

In Islam, the creator of the universe is beyond human comprehension and Muslims are not expected to visualize God. God is described and referred to by certain names or attributes, the most common being *Al-Rahmān*, meaning "The Compassionate" and *Al-Rahīm*, meaning "The Merciful" (See [Names of God in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_God_in_Islam)).[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-Ben-37#cite_note-Ben-37)

Muslims believe that creation of everything in the universe is brought into being by God’s sheer command “‘Be’ and so it is.” and that the [purpose of existence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purpose_of_life) is to love and serve God. He is viewed as a personal god who responds whenever a person in need or distress calls him. There are no intermediaries, such as [clergy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clergy), to contact God who states, "We are nearer to him than (his) [jugular vein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jugular_vein)"

[*Allāh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All%C4%81h) is the term with no [plural](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plural) or [gender](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender) used by Muslims and Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews to reference God, while [*ʾilāh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CA%BEil%C4%81h) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): إله‎) is the term used for a deity or a god in general. Other non-Arab Muslims might use different names as much as Allah, for instance "Tanrı" in [Turkish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language) or "Khodā" in [Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language).

**Angels**

Main article: [Islamic view of angels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_angels)

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| [**Quran**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran)**Al-Qurʾān** - (القرآن) |
| **Quranic division**[**Sura**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sura) - [**Ayah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayah)**Other**[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Manzil**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manzil) - [**Juz'**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juz%27) - [**Hizb**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hizb)[**Suras**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sura)**Classification of Sura**[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Meccan suras**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meccan_sura) - [**Medinan suras**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medinan_sura)[**List of Suras**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_suras_in_the_Quran)[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**1.Al-Fatiha**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Fatiha) - [**2.Al-Baqara**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Baqara) - [**3.Al Imran**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Imran) - [**4.An-Nisa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Nisa) - [**5.Al-Ma'ida**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ma%27ida) - [**6.Al-An'am**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-An%27am) - [**7.Al-A'raf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-A%27raf) - [**8.Al-Anfal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Anfal) - [**9.At-Tawba**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At-Tawba) - [**10.Yunus**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yunus_%28sura%29) - [**11.Hud**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hud_%28sura%29) - [**12.Yusuf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yusuf_%28sura%29) - [**13.Ar-Ra'd**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ar-Ra%27d) - [**14.Ibrahim**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_%28sura%29) - [**15.Al-Hijr**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Hijr) - [**16.An-Nahl**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Nahl) - [**17.Al-Isra**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Isra) - [**18.Al-Kahf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kahf) - [**19.Maryam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryam_%28sura%29) - [**20.Ta-Ha**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ta-Ha) - [**21.Al-Anbiya**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Anbiya) - [**22.Al-Hajj**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Hajj) - [**23.Al-Mu’minoon**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mu%E2%80%99minoon) - [**24.An-Nur**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Nur) - [**25.Al-Furqan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Furqan) - [**26.Ash-Shu'ara**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash-Shu%27ara) - [**27.An-Naml**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Naml) - [**28.Al-Qasas**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qasas) - [**29.Al-Ankabut**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ankabut) - [**30.Ar-Rum**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ar-Rum) - [**31.Luqman**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luqman_%28sura%29) - [**32.As-Sajda**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Sajda) - [**33.Al-Ahzab**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ahzab) - [**34.Saba**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saba_%28sura%29) - [**35.Fatir**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatir) - [**36.Ya Sin**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ya_Sin) - [**37.As-Saaffat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Saaffat) - [**38.Sad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sad_%28sura%29) - [**39.Az-Zumar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zumar) - [**40.Ghafir**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghafir) - 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[**75.Al-Qiyama**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qiyama) - [**76.Al-Insan (al-Dahr)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Insan) - [**77.Al-Mursalat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mursalat) - [**78.An-Naba**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Naba) - [**79.An-Naziat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Naziat) - [**80.Abasa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abasa) - [**81.At-Takwir**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At-Takwir) - [**82.Al-Infitar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Infitar) - [**83.Al-Mutaffifin**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mutaffifin) - [**84.Al-Inshiqaq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Inshiqaq) - [**85.Al-Burooj**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Burooj) - [**86.At-Tariq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At-Tariq) - [**87.Al-'Ala**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ala) - [**88.Al-Ghashiya**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ghashiya) - [**89.Al-Fajr**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Fajr_%28sura%29) - [**90.Al-Balad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Balad) - [**91.Ash-Shams**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash-Shams) - [**92.Al-Lail**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Lail) - [**93.Ad-Dhuha**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad-Dhuha) - [**94.Al-Inshirah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Inshirah) - [**95.At-Tin**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At-Tin) - [**96.Al-Alaq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Alaq) - [**97.Al-Qadr**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qadr_%28sura%29) - [**98.Al-Bayyina**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Bayyina) - [**99.Az-Zalzala**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Az-Zalzala) - [**100.Al-Adiyat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Adiyat) - [**101.Al-Qaria**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaria) - [**102.At-Takathur**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/At-Takathur) - [**103.Al-Asr**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Asr) - [**104.Al-Humaza**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Humaza) - [**105.Al-Fil**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Fil) - [**106.Quraysh**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quraysh_%28sura%29) - [**107.Al-Ma'un**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ma%27un) - [**108.Al-Kawthar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kawthar) - [**109.Al-Kafirun**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kafirun) - [**110.An-Nasr**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An-Nasr) - [**111.Al-Masadd**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Masadd) - [**112.Al-Ikhlas**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ikhlas) - [**113.Al-Falaq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Falaq) - [**114.Al-Nas**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Nas)[**Prophets in the Quran**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam#Table_of_prophets.2Fmessengers_in_the_Quran)[**Adam (Ādam - آدم)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_views_on_Adam) - [**Enoch (Īdrīs - إدريس)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idris_%28prophet%29) - [**Noah (Nūḥ - نوح)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah_in_Islam) - [**Eber (Hūd - هود)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hud_%28prophet%29) - [**Saleh (Ṣāliḥ - صالح)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saleh) - [**Abraham (Ibrāhīm - إبراهيم)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_in_Islam) - [**Lot (Lūṭ - لوط)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lut) - [**Ishmael (Ismā‘īl - إسماعيل)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishmael_in_Islam) - [**Isaac (Isḥāq - إسحاق)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_in_Islam) - [**Jacob (Ya‘qūb - يعقوب)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob_in_Islam) - [**Joseph (Yūsuf - يوسف)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_in_Islam) - [**Job (Ayyūb - أيوب)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Job_%28prophet%29) - [**Jethro (Shu‘aib - شعيب)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuaib) - [**Moses (Mūsá - موسى)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_in_Islam) - [**Aaron (Hārūn - هارون)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Aaron) - [**Ezekiel (Dhul-kifl - ذو الكفل)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhul-Kifl) - [**David (Dāwud - داود)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_in_Islam) - [**Solomon (Sulaimān - سليمان)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon_in_Islam) - [**Elijah (Ilyās - إلياس)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah#Elijah_in_Islam) - [**Elisha (Alyasa‘ - اليسع)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisha#In_Islam) - [**Jonah (Yūnus - يونس)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Jonah) - [**Zechariah (Zakariyyā - زكريا)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zechariah_%28priest%29#In_Islam) - [**John the Baptist (Yaḥyá - يحيى)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_the_Baptist#Islam) - [**Jesus (‘Īsá - عيسى)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_in_Islam) - [**Muhammad (Muḥammad - محمد)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad)[**Quran reading**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_reading)[**Tajwid**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajwid) - [**Tarteel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarteel) - [**Rasm**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rasm) - [**Muqatta'at**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muqatta%27at) - [**Ruku'**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruku%27) - [**Sujud**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sujud)**Recitation and Reciters**[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Hafiz**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hafiz_%28Quran%29) [**(List of Hafiz)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hafiz) - [**Qari'**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qari%27) - [**Qira'at**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qira%27at)[**Translations**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_translations)[**List of translations**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_translations_of_the_Quran) - [**English translations**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_translations_of_the_Quran)[**History**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Quran)[**Mus'haf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mus%27haf) - [**Tanazzulat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanazzulat)[**Tafsir**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafsir)[**Qisas Al-Anbiya**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qisas_Al-Anbiya) - [**Persons related to verses**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_related_to_Quranic_verses) - [**Asbab al-nuzul**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asbab_al-nuzul) - [**Naskh**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naskh_%28tafsir%29) - [**Biblical narratives**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_narratives_and_the_Quran) - [**Tahrif**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahrif) - [**Bakkah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakkah) - [**Esoteric interpretation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esoteric_interpretation_of_the_Quran)**Perspectives**[**Shia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_view_of_the_Quran) - [**Criticism**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_the_Quran) - [**Desecration**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_desecration) - [**Surah of Wilaya and Nurayn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surah_of_Wilaya_and_Nurayn) -**Related articles**[**Quran and Sunnah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_and_Sunnah) - [**Literalism**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quranic_literalism) - [**Justice**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_the_Quran) - [**Miracles**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_and_miracles) - [**Science**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_and_science) - [**Legends**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legends_and_the_Quran) - [**Beit Al Quran**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_Al_Quran) - [**Digital Quran**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Quran) - [**Female figures**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Female_figures_in_the_Quran)[**◈**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AQuran) [**◈**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3AQuran) [**◈**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3AIslam) |

Belief in angels is fundamental to the faith of Islam. The Arabic word for angel ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): ملاك‎ *malak*) means "[messenger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courier)", like its counterparts in [Hebrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew) (*malakh*) and [Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) (*angelos*). According to the Qur'an, angels do not possess [free will](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_will), and worship God in total obedience. Angels' duties include communicating [revelations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revelation) from God, glorifying God, recording every person's actions, and taking a person's [soul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soul) at the time of death. They are also thought to [intercede](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intercession) on man's behalf. The Qur'an describes angels as "messengers with wings—two, or three, or four (pairs): He [God] adds to Creation as He pleases..."

**Revelations**

Main articles: [Islamic holy books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_holy_books) and [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an)

See also: [History of the Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Qur%27an)

The [first sura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Fatiha) in a [Qur'anic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an) manuscript by [Hattat Aziz Efendi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattat_Aziz_Efendi)

The Islamic holy books are the records which most Muslims believe were dictated by God to various prophets. Muslims believe that parts of the previously revealed scriptures, the [*Tawrat*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawrat) ([Torah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah)) and the [*Injil*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Injil) ([Gospels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospels)), had become [distorted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahrif)—either in interpretation, in text, or both. The [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an) (literally, “Reading” or “Recitation”) is viewed by Muslims as the final revelation and literal word of God and is widely regarded as the finest [piece of literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_literature) work in the [Arabic language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language).

Muslims believe that the verses of the Qur'an were revealed to [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) by God through the [archangel Gabriel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel) (*Jibrīl*) on many occasions between 610 CE until his death on June 8, 632 CE.[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-48#cite_note-48) While Muhammad was alive, all of these revelations were written down by his companions ([*sahabah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahabah)), although the prime method of transmission was orally through [memorization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hafiz_%28Quran%29).

The Qur'an is divided into 114 [suras](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sura), or chapters, which combined, contain 6,236 [*āyāt*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayah), or verses. The chronologically earlier suras, revealed at [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca), are primarily concerned with ethical and spiritual topics. The later [Medinan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medina) suras mostly discuss social and moral issues relevant to the Muslim community. The Qur'an is more concerned with moral guidance than legal instruction, and is considered the "sourcebook of Islamic principles and values".Muslim jurists consult the [*hadith*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith), or the written record of Prophet Muhammad's life, to both supplement the Qur'an and assist with its interpretation. The science of Qur'anic commentary and exegesis is known as [*tafsir*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafsir). Rules governing proper pronunciation is called [*tajwid*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajwid).

Muslims usually view "the Qur'an" as the original scripture as revealed in Arabic and that any translations are necessarily deficient, which are regarded only as commentaries on the Qur'an.

**Prophets**

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| [**Hadith**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith)**Ḥadīth** - (حديث) |
| [**History**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_hadith)[**Prophetic Period**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_hadith#Prophetic_Period) - [**Post-Prophetic Period**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_hadith#Post-prophetic_period)[**Categories**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Categories_of_Hadith)[**Ṣaḥīḥ**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B9.A2a.E1.B8.A5.C4.AB.E1.B8.A5) - [**Ḥasan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B8.A4asan) - [**Ḍaʻīf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B8.8Ca.CA.BB.C4.ABf) - [**Mawḍūʻ**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Maw.E1.B8.8D.C5.AB.CA.BB) - [**Maqlūb**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Categories_of_Hadith#Categorization_based_on_reliability)[**Terminology**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology)[**Ṣaḥīḥ**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B9.A2a.E1.B8.A5.C4.AB.E1.B8.A5) - [**Ḥasan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B8.A4asan) - [**Musnad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Musnad) - [**Muttaṣil**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mutta.E1.B9.A3il) - [**Ḍaʻīf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.E1.B8.8Ca.CA.BB.C4.ABf) - [**Muʻallaq**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mu.CA.BBallaq) - [**Mursal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mursal) - [**Muʻḍal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mu.CA.BB.E1.B8.8Dal) - [**Munqaṭiʻ**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Munqa.E1.B9.ADi.CA.BB) - [**Munkar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Munkar) - [**Shādhdh**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Sh.C4.81dhdh) - [**Muḍṭarib**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mu.E1.B8.8D.E1.B9.ADarib) - [**Mawḍūʻ**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Maw.E1.B8.8D.C5.AB.CA.BB) - [**Mutawatir**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mutawatir) - [**Ahaad**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Ahaad) - [**Mashhur**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mashhur) - [**`Aziz**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#.60Aziz) - [**Gharib**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Gharib) - [**Marfu`**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Marfu.60) - [**Mawquf**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Mawquf) - [**Maqtu'**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_terminology#Maqtu.27) - [**Isra'iliyat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isra%27iliyat)[**Collections**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_hadith)[**Sunni**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni)[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Al-Kutub Al-Sittah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kutub_al-Sittah) **- *( The Six Books )***[**Sahih Al-Bukhari**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahih_al-Bukhari) ( صحيح البخاري )[**Sahih Muslim**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahih_Muslim) ( صحيح مسلم )[**Al-Sunan Al-Sughra**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Sunan_al-Sughra) ( السنن الصغرى )[**Sunan Abi Dawood**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunan_Abi_Dawood) ( سنن أبي داود )[**Sunan Al-Tirmidhi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunan_al-Tirmidhi) ( جامع الترمذي )[**Sunan Ibn Maja**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunan_Ibn_Maja) ( سُنن ابن ماجه )**Others**[**Muwatta Imam Malik**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muwatta_Imam_Malik) **-** [**Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musnad_Ahmad_ibn_Hanbal) *(780–855)* **-** [**Sunan Al-Darimi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunan_al-Darimi) *(868)* **-** [**Shama'il Muhammadiyah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shama%27il_Muhammadiyah) *often referred to as* [**Shamaail Tirmidhi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamaail_Tirmidhi) *(9th Century)* **-** [**Sahih Ibn Khuzaymah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahih_Ibn_Khuzaymah) *(923)* **-** [**Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Ḥibbān**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahih_Ibn_Hibbaan) *(965)* **-** [**Al-Mustadrak Alaa Al-Ṣaḥīḥaīn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mustadrak_alaa_al-Sahihain) *(1014)* **-** [**Al-Mawdū'āt Al-Kubrā**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Great_Collection_of_Fabricated_Traditions) *(1128–1217)* **-** [**Rīaḍ As-Ṣāliḥīn**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riyadh_as-Saaliheen) *(1233–1278)* **-** [**Mishkat Al-Masabih**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mishkat_al-Masabih) *(1340)* **-** [**Talkhis Al-Mustadrak**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talkhis_al-Mustadrak) *(1274–1348)* **-** [**Majma Al-Zawa'id**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majma_al-Zawa%27id) *(1335–1405)* **-** [**Bulugh Al-Maram**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulugh_al-Maram) *(1372–1449)* **-** [**Kanz al-Ummal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanz_al-Ummal) *(16th century)* **-** [**Zujajat al-Masabih**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zujajat_al-Masabih) *(19th century)* **-** [**Minhaj us Sawi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minhaj_us_Sawi) *(20th century)* **-** [**Muntakhab Ahadith**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muntakhab_Ahadith) *(20th century)*[**Shi'a**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shi%27a)[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Al-Kutub Al-Arb'ah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kutub_Al-Arb%27ah) **- *( The four Books )***[**Kitab Al-Kafi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitab_al-Kafi) ( الكتاب الكافي )[**Man La Yahduruhu Al-Faqih**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_la_yahduruhu_al-Faqih) ( من لا يحضره الفقيه )[**Tahdhib Al-Ahkam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahdhib_al-Ahkam) ( تهذیب الاحکام )[**Al-Istibsar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Istibsar) ( الاستبصار )**Others**[**The Book of Sulaym Ibn Qays**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_of_Sulaym_ibn_Qays) *(7th Century)* **-** [**Al-Sahifa Al-Sajjadiyya**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Sahifa_al-Sajjadiyya) *(678–713)* **-** [**Sharh Usul al-Kafi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharh_Usul_al-Kafi) *(?–1081)* **-** [**Nahj Al-Balagha**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahj_al-Balagha) *(10th Century)* **-** [**Wasā'il Al-Shīʿa**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Was%C4%81%27il_al-Sh%C4%AB%CA%BFa) *(17th century)* **-** [**Bihar Al-Anwar**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar_al-Anwar) *(17th century)* **-** [**Haqq al-Yaqeen**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reality_of_Certainty) *(17th century)* **-** [**Ain Al-Hayat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essence_of_Life_%28book%29) *(17th century)* **-** [**Qalam-e-Mowla**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qalam-e-Mowla) *(?)* **-** [**Daim al-Islam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daim_al-Islam) *(?)*[**Ibadi**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadi)[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)**Al-Jami' As-Sahih** **-** **Tartib Al-Musnad**[**Mu'tazila**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mu%27tazila)[[show]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam##)[**Comments on the Peak of Eloquence**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comments_on_the_Peak_of_Eloquence_%28book_by_Abd_al-Hamid%29) *(?–1258)***Related Articles**[**Hadith studies**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_studies) - [**Biographical evaluation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biographical_evaluation) - [**Ahl Al-Hadith**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahl_al-Hadith) - [**Criticism of Hadith**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_Hadith)

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[**◈**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AHadith) [**◈**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3AIslam) |

Main article: [Prophets in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam)

Muslims identify the prophets of Islam ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): نبي‎ *nabī* ) as those humans chosen by God to be his messengers. According to the Qur'an the descendants of Abraham were chosen by God to bring the "Will of God" to the peoples of the nations. Muslims believe that prophets are human and not divine, though some are able to perform miracles to prove their claim. [Islamic theology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_theology) says that all of God's messengers preached the message of Islam—submission to the will of God. The Qur'an mentions the names of numerous figures considered [prophets in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam), including [Adam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_%28Bible%29), [Noah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Noah), [Abraham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham), [Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Moses) and [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_in_Islam), among others. Muslims believe that God finally sent [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) ([*Seal of the Prophets*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_the_prophets)) to convey the divine message to the whole world (to sum up and to finalize the word of God). In Islam, the "normative" example of Muhammad's life is called the [Sunnah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah) (literally "trodden path"). This example is preserved in traditions known as [hadith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith) ("reports"), which recount his words, his actions, and his personal characteristics. [Hadith Qudsi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith#Hadith_Qudsi) is a sub-category of hadith, regarded as the words of God repeated by Muhammad differing from the Quran in that they are "*expressed in Muhammad's words*", whereas the Quran are the "*direct words of God*". The classical Muslim jurist [ash-Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash-Shafi%27i) (d. 820) emphasized the importance of the Sunnah in Islamic law, and Muslims are encouraged to emulate Muhammad's actions in their daily lives. The Sunnah is seen as crucial to guiding interpretation of the Qur'an.

**Resurrection and judgment**

Main article: [Qiyama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qiyama)

Belief in the "Day of Resurrection", [*Yawm al-Qiyāmah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qiyamah) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): يوم القيامة‎) is also crucial for Muslims. They believe the time of *Qiyāmah* is preordained by God but unknown to man. The trials and [tribulations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribulation) preceding and during the *Qiyāmah* are described in the Qur'an and the [hadith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith), and also in the commentaries of [scholars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulama). The Qur'an emphasizes [bodily resurrection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_of_the_Dead), a break from the [pre-Islamic Arabian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Islamic_Arabia) understanding of death.

On Yawm al-Qiyāmah, Muslims believe all mankind will be judged on their good and bad deeds. The Quran in Surat Az-Zalzalah describes this as "So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it (99:7) And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it (99:8)". The Qur'an [lists several sins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_views_of_sin) that can condemn a person to [hell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hell), such as [disbelief](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kafir) in God ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): كفر‎ *Kufr*), and dishonesty; however, the Qur'an makes it clear God will forgive the [sins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_views_on_sin) of those who repent if he so wills. Good deeds, such as charity, prayer and compassion towards animals, will be rewarded with entry to heaven. Muslims view [heaven](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jannah) as a place of joy and bliss, with Qur'anic references describing its features and the physical pleasures to come. Mystical traditions in Islam place these heavenly delights in the context of an ecstatic awareness of God.

[*Yawm al-Qiyāmah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qiyamah) is also identified in the Qur'an as *Yawm ad-Dīn* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): يوم الدين‎), "Day of Religion"; *as-sāʿah* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): الساعة‎), "the Last Hour"; and *al-Qāriʿah* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): القارعة‎), "The Clatterer."

**Predestination**

Main article: [Predestination in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination_in_Islam)

In accordance with the Islamic belief in [predestination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination), or divine preordainment (*al-qadā wa'l-qadar*), God has full knowledge and control over all that occurs. This is explained in Qur'anic verses such as "Say: 'Nothing will happen to us except what Allah has decreed for us: He is our protector'..." For Muslims, everything in the world that occurs, good or evil, has been preordained and nothing can happen unless permitted by God. According to Muslim theologians, although events are pre-ordained, man possesses free will in that he has the faculty to choose between right and wrong, and is thus responsible for his actions. According to Islamic tradition, all that has been decreed by God is written in *al-Lawh al-Mahfūz*, the "Preserved Tablet".

**Five pillars**

Main article: [Five Pillars of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam)

The Pillars of Islam (*arkan al-Islam*; also *arkan ad-din*, "pillars of religion") are five basic acts in Islam, considered obligatory for all believers. The [Quran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran) presents them as a framework for worship and a sign of commitment to the faith. They are (1) the [Shahadah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah) (creed), (2) daily prayers ([salat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat)), (3) almsgiving ([zakah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakah)), (4) fasting during [Ramadan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan) and (5) the pilgrimage to Mecca ([hajj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)) at least once in a lifetime. The [Shia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia) and [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni) sects both agree on the essential details for the performance of these acts.

**Testimony**

Main article: [Shahadah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah)

The [Shahadah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah), which is the basic [creed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creed) of Islam that must be recited under [oath](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oath) with the specific statement: "*'ašhadu 'al-lā ilāha illā-llāhu wa 'ašhadu 'anna muħammadan rasūlu-llāh*", or "I testify there are no deities other than God alone and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God." This testament is a foundation for all other beliefs and practices in Islam. Muslims must repeat the *shahadah* in prayer, and non-Muslims wishing to [convert to Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convert_to_Islam) are required to recite the creed.

**Prayer**

Main article: [Salah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salah)

See also: [Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque)

Muslim men [prostrating](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostration) during prayer in a mosque.

Ritual prayers, called Ṣalāh or Ṣalāt ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): [صلاة](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A9)), must be performed five times a [day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day). Salah is intended to focus the mind on [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God), and is seen as a personal communication with him that expresses gratitude and [worship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worship). Salah is compulsory but flexibility in the specifics is allowed depending on circumstances. The prayers are recited in the [Arabic language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language), and consist of verses from the Qur'an.

A mosque is a [place of worship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Places_of_worship) for Muslims, who often refer to it by its Arabic name, *masjid*. The word *mosque* in English refers to all types of buildings dedicated to Islamic worship, although there is a distinction in Arabic between the smaller, privately owned mosque and the larger, "collective" mosque (*masjid jāmi`*). Although the primary purpose of the mosque is to serve as a place of prayer, it is also important to the [Muslim community](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummah) as a place to meet and study. Modern mosques have evolved greatly from the early designs of the 7th century, and contain a variety of architectural elements such as [minarets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minaret).[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-75#cite_note-75)

**Alms-giving**

Main articles: [Zakat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat) and [Sadaqah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadaqah)

"Zakāt" ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): زكاة‎ *zakāh* "[alms](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/alms)") is giving a fixed portion of accumulated wealth by those who can afford it to help the poor or needy, and also to assist the spread of Islam. It is considered a religious obligation (as opposed to voluntary charity) that the well-off owe to the needy because their wealth is seen as a "trust from God's bounty". Conservative estimates of annual zakat is estimated to be 15 times global humanitarian aid contributions. The Qur'an and the hadith also urge a Muslim give even more as an act of voluntary alms-giving called [*ṣadaqah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadaqah).

The Kaaba during Hajj

**Fasting**

Main article: [Sawm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm)

*Further information:* [*Sawm of Ramadan*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm_of_Ramadan)

Fasting, ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): صوم‎ *ṣawm*), from food and drink (among other things) must be performed from dawn to dusk during the month of [Ramadhan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadhan). The fast is to encourage a feeling of nearness to God, and during it Muslims should express their gratitude for and dependence on him, atone for their past sins, and think of the needy. *Sawm* is not obligatory for several groups for whom it would constitute an undue burden. For others, flexibility is allowed depending on circumstances, but missed fasts usually must be made up quickly.

**Pilgrimage**

Main article: [Hajj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)

The [pilgrimage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage), called the *ḥajj* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): حج‎ *ḥaǧǧ*) during the [Islamic month](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar) of [*Dhu al-Hijjah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhu_al-Hijjah) in the city of Mecca. Every [able-bodied](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Able-bodied) Muslim who can afford it must make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in his or her lifetime. Rituals of the Hajj include walking seven times around the [Kaaba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaaba), touching the [black stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_stone) if possible, walking or running seven times between [Mount Safa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Safa_and_Al-Marwah) and [Mount Marwah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Safa_and_Al-Marwah), and symbolically [stoning the Devil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stoning_of_the_Devil) in [Mina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mina%2C_Saudi_Arabia).

**Law and jurisprudence**

Main articles: [Sharia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia) and [Fiqh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh)

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| Part of [a series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AFiqh) on |
| [**Islamicjurisprudence(*Fiqh*)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh) |
| [Economic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economic_jurisprudence)[History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economics_in_the_world)* [**Zakat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat)
* [Jizya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jizya)
* [Nisab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nisab)
* [Khums](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khums)
* [Sadaqah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadaqah)
	+ [Waqf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqf)
* [Bayt al-mal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayt_al-mal)
* [**Banking**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_banking)
* [Riba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riba)
* [Murabaha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murabaha)
* [Takaful](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takaful)
* [Sukuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukuk)
* [**Inheritance**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_inheritance_jurisprudence)
 |
| [Political](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_political_jurisprudence)* [Political aspects of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_aspects_of_Islam)
* [Islamic leadership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_leadership)
* [Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)
* [Imamah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imamah)
* [Wilayat al-faqih](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilayat_al-faqih)
* [Bay'ah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay%27ah)
* [Dhimmi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhimmi)
 |
| [Marital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_marital_jurisprudence)* [Contract](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_marriage_contract)
* [Mahr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahr)
* [**Marriage in Islam**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_in_Islam)
* [Misyar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikah_Misyar)
* [Halala](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikah_Halala)
* [Urfi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikah_%27urfi)
* [Nikah mut‘ah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikah_mut%E2%80%98ah)
* [Polygyny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygyny_in_Islam)
* [Divorce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divorce_%28Islamic%29)
* [Iddah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iddah)
* [Ma malakat aymanukum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma_malakat_aymanukum_and_sex)
* [Adoption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_adoptional_jurisprudence)
 |
| [Sexual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_sexual_jurisprudence)* [Techniques](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Islam_and_sexual_techniques&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Masturbation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_masturbation)
* [Hygiene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_sexual_hygienical_jurisprudence)
* [Extramarital sex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zina_%28Arabic%29)
	+ [Awrah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Awrah)
 |
| [Criminal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_criminal_jurisprudence)* [**Hudud**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudud)
* [Blasphemy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_blasphemy)
* [Maisir (gambling)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maisir)
* [Zina (extramarital sex)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zina_%28Arabic%29)
* [Hirabah (unlawful warfare)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hirabah)
* [Fasad (mischief)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasad)
* [Rajm (stoning)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajm)
* [Tazir (discretionary)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tazir)
* [Qisas (retribution)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qisas)
* [Diyya (compensation)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diyya)
 |
| [Etiquette](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_etiquettical_jurisprudence)* [Adab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adab_%28behavior%29)
* [Sex segregation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_segregation_and_Islam)
* [Mahram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahram)
* [Honorifics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_honorifics)
* [Toilet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_toilet_etiquette)
 |
| [Theological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_theological_jurisprudence)* [**Baligh**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baligh)
* [**Salat**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat)
* [Raka'ah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raka%27ah)
* [Qibla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qibla)
* [Turbah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbah)
* [Sunnah salat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah_salat)
	+ [Tahajjud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahajjud)
	+ [Tarawih](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarawih)
* [Nafl salat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nafl_salat)
* [**Sawm**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm)
* [**Hajj**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)
* [Ihram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihram)
	+ [Clothing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihram_clothing)
	+ [Mut'ah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mut%27ah_of_Hajj)
* [Tawaf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawaf)
* [Umrah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umrah)
	+ [with Hajj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combining_Umrah_and_Hajj)
 |
| [Hygiene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_hygienical_jurisprudence)* [Sexual](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_sexual_hygienical_jurisprudence)
* [Toilet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_toilet_etiquette)
* [Taharah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritual_purity_in_Islam)
* [Ihram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihram)
* [Wudu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wudu)
* [Masah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masah)
* [Ghusl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghusl)
* [Tayammum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tayammum)
* [Miswak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miswak)
* [Najis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Najis)
* [**Dietary**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_dietary_laws)
* [Dhabihah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhabihah)
* [Alcohol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_dietary_laws#Alcohol)
* [Pork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_dietary_laws#Pork)
* [Compared with kashrut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_and_Jewish_dietary_laws_compared)
 |
| [Military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_military_jurisprudence)* [Defensive jihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_jihad)
* [Offensive jihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offensive_jihad)
* [Hudna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudna)
* [Istijarah (asylum)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istijarah)
* [Ma malakat aymanukum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma_malakat_aymanukum)
* [Prisoners of war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoners_of_war_in_Islam)
 |
| [**Islamic studies**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_studies) |

The *Sharia* (literally "the path leading to the watering place") is Islamic law formed by traditional Islamic scholarship, which most Muslim groups adhere to. In Islam, Sharia is the expression of the divine will, and "constitutes a system of duties that are incumbent upon a Muslim by virtue of his religious belief".

Islamic law covers all aspects of life, from matters of state, like governance and [foreign relations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplomacy), to issues of daily living. The Qur'an defines [*hudud*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudud) as the punishments for five specific crimes: unlawful intercourse, false accusation of unlawful intercourse, consumption of alcohol, theft, and highway robbery. Though not in the Qur'an, there are also [laws against apostasy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostasy_in_Islam) (although Muslims disagree over punishment). The Qur'an and Sunnah also contain laws of [inheritance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Inheritance_jurisprudence), [marriage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_marital_jurisprudence), and [restitution for injuries and murder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qisas), as well as rules for [fasting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm), [charity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadaqah), and [prayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat). However, these [prescriptions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wajib) and [prohibitions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haraam) may be broad, so their application in practice varies. [Islamic scholars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulema) (known as *ulema*) have elaborated systems of law on the basis of these rules and their interpretations. Over the years there have been changing views on [Islamic law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh) but many such as [Zahiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zahiri) and [Jariri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jariri)have since died out.

[*Fiqh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh), or "jurisprudence", is defined as the knowledge of the practical rules of the religion. Much of it has evolved to prevent innovation or alteration in the original religion, known as [bid'ah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bid%27ah). The method Islamic jurists use to derive rulings is known as [*usul al-fiqh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usul_al-fiqh) ("legal theory", or "principles of jurisprudence"). According to Islamic legal theory, law has four fundamental roots, which are given precedence in this order: the Qur'an, the Sunnah (the practice of Muhammad), the consensus of the Muslim jurists ([*ijma*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijma)), and analogical reasoning ([*qiyas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qiyas)). For early Islamic jurists, theory was less important than pragmatic application of the law. In the 9th century, the jurist [ash-Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash-Shafi%27i) provided a theoretical basis for Islamic law by codifying the principles of jurisprudence (including the four fundamental roots) in his book *ar-Risālah*.

**Jurists**

Main articles: [Ulama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulama), [Sheikh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh), and [Imam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imam)

There are many terms in Islam to refer to religiously sanctioned positions of Islam, but "jurist" generally refers to the educated class of [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) legal scholars engaged in the several fields of [Islamic studies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_studies). In a broader sense, the term *ulema* is used to describe the body of Muslim clergy who have completed several years of training and study of Islamic sciences, such as a [mufti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mufti), [qadi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qadi), [faqih](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faqih), or [muhaddith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhaddith). Some Muslims include under this term the village [mullahs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mullah), [imams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imam), and [maulvis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maulvi)—who have attained only the lowest rungs on the ladder of Islamic scholarship; other Muslims would say that clerics must meet higher standards to be considered ulama (singular Aalim). Some Muslims practice [ijtihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijtihad) whereby they do not accept the authority of clergy.

**Etiquette and diet**

Main articles: [Adab (behavior)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adab_%28behavior%29) and [Islamic dietary laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_dietary_laws)

Many practices fall in the category of *adab*, or Islamic etiquette. This includes greeting others with "[*as-salamu `alaykum*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As-Salamu_Alaykum)" ("peace be unto you"), saying [*bismillah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basmala) ("in [the name of God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_God)") before meals, and using only the right hand for eating and drinking. [Islamic hygienic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_hygienical_jurisprudence) practices mainly fall into the category of personal cleanliness and health. [Circumcision of male offspring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khitan_%28circumcision%29) is also practiced in Islam. [Islamic burial rituals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_funeral) include saying the [*Salat al-Janazah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat_al-Janazah) ("funeral prayer") over the bathed and enshrouded dead body, and burying it in a [grave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grave_%28burial%29). Muslims are restricted in their diet. Prohibited foods include pork products, blood, [carrion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrion), and [alcohol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic_beverage). All meat must come from a [herbivorous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbivorous) animal slaughtered in the name of God by a Muslim, Jew, or Christian, with the exception of game that one has hunted or fished for oneself. Food permissible for Muslims is known as [halal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halal) food.

**Family life**

See also: [Women in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Islam)

[Women in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Islam)

The basic unit of Islamic society is the [family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family), and Islam defines the obligations and legal rights of family members. The father is seen as financially responsible for his family, and is obliged to cater for their well-being. The division of [inheritance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Inheritance_jurisprudence) is specified in the Qur'an, which states that most of it is to pass to the immediate family, while a portion is set aside for the payment of debts and the making of bequests. With some exceptions, the woman's share of inheritance is generally half of that of a man with the same rights of succession. [Marriage in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_in_Islam) is a civil [contract](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikah) which consists of an offer and acceptance between two qualified parties in the presence of two witnesses. The groom is required to pay a bridal gift ([*mahr*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahr)) to the bride, as stipulated in the contract. A man may have up to four wives if he believes he can treat them equally, while a woman may have only one husband. In most Muslim countries, the process of divorce in Islam is known as [*talaq*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talaq_%28Nikah%29), which the husband initiates by pronouncing the word "divorce". Scholars disagree whether Islamic holy texts justify traditional Islamic practices such as [veiling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijab) and seclusion ([purdah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purdah)). Starting in the 20th century, Muslim social reformers argued against these and other practices such as [polygamy in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygamy_in_Islam), with varying success. At the same time, many Muslim women have attempted to reconcile tradition with modernity by combining an active life with outward modesty. Certain [Islamist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamist) groups like the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) have sought to continue traditional law as applied to women.

**Government**

Main articles: [Political aspects of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_aspects_of_Islam), [Islamic state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_state), [Islam and secularism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_secularism), and [Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate)

Mainstream Islamic law does not distinguish between "matters of church" and "matters of state"; the [scholars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulema) function as both jurists and theologians. In practice, Islamic rulers frequently bypassed the Sharia courts with a parallel system of so-called "Grievance courts" over which they had sole control. As the Muslim world came into contact with European secular ideals, Muslim societies responded in different ways. [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey) has been governed as a [secular state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_state) ever since the reforms of [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atat%C3%BCrk) in 1923. In contrast, the [1979 Iranian Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1979_Iranian_Revolution) replaced a mostly secular regime with an [Islamic republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_republic) led by the [Ayatollah Khomeini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruholla_Khomeini).

**Economy**

To reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, [Islamic economic jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economic_jurisprudence) encourages trade, discourages the hoarding of wealth and outlaws interest bearing loans [Usury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usury) (the term is [*riba*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riba) in [Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language)). Therefore wealth is taxed through [Zakat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat), but trade is not taxed. [Usury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usury) allows the rich to get richer without sharing in the risk. Profit sharing and Venture Capital where the lender is also exposed to risk is acceptable. Hoarding of food for speculation is also discouraged. Grabbing other people’s land is also prohibited. The prohibition of [Usury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usury) has resulted in the development of [Islamic banking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_banking).

**Military**

Main articles: [Jihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihad), [Islamic military jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_military_jurisprudence), and [List of expeditions of Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_expeditions_of_Muhammad)

Jihad means "to strive or struggle" (in the way of God). Jihad, in its broadest sense, is "exerting one's utmost power, efforts, endeavors, or ability in contending with an object of [disapprobation](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/disapprobation)." Depending on the object being a visible enemy, the [devil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil), and aspects of one's own self (such as sinful desires), different categories of jihad are defined. Jihad, when used without any qualifier, is understood in its military aspect. Jihad also refers to one's striving to attain religious and moral perfection. Some Muslim authorities, especially among the Shi'a and [Sufis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism), distinguish between the "greater jihad", which pertains to spiritual [self-perfection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-improvement), and the "lesser jihad", defined as warfare.

Within [Islamic jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiqh), jihad is usually taken to mean military exertion against non-Muslim combatants in the [defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_Jihad) or [expansion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offensive_jihad) of the [Ummah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummah). The ultimate purpose of military jihad is debated, both within the Islamic community and without, with some claiming that it only serves to protect the Ummah, with no aspiration of offensive conflict, whereas others have argued that the goal of Jihad is global conquest. Jihad is the only form of warfare permissible in Islamic law and may be declared against [terrorists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism), criminal groups, rebels, [apostates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostasy_in_Islam), and leaders or states who oppress Muslims or hamper proselytizing efforts. Most Muslims today interpret Jihad as only a defensive form of warfare: the external Jihad includes a struggle to make the Islamic societies conform to the Islamic norms of justice.

Under most circumstances and for most Muslims, jihad is a collective duty ([*fard kifaya*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fard)): its performance by some individuals exempts the others. Only for those vested with authority, especially the sovereign ([imam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imam)), does jihad become an individual duty. For the rest of the populace, this happens only in the case of a [general mobilization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_mobilization). For most [Twelver Shias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelver), [offensive jihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offensive_jihad) can only be declared by a [divinely appointed leader](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imamah_%28Shi%27a_twelver_doctrine%29) of the Muslim community, and as such is suspended since [Muhammad al-Mahdi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Mahdi)'s occultation in 868 AD.

But there are clear limits imposed, for example, in war [Muhammed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammed) prohibited the killing of women and children.

In Islam there is also no compulsion in religion, as stated in surah [Al-Baqara 256](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Baqara_256) in the Quran.

Early Muslim armies stayed in encampments away from cities, because [Umar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar) the second Caliph, feared that early Muslims, from the desert, may become corrupted by the big city and start behaving like the Persian and the Roman elite. It also ensured that there was no stress on the population and the populations remained autonomous and kept their own judges and representatives. Some of these encampments later grew into cities, like [Basra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basra) and [Kufa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kufa) in Iraq and [Fustat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fustat) in Egypt. Some cities also had agreements with the Muslims, like during the [Siege of Jerusalem (637)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_%28637%29).

**History**

Main articles: [Muslim history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_history) and [Spread of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spread_of_Islam)

**Muhammad (610–632)**

Main articles: [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) and [Muhammad in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_in_Islam)

See also: [Early social changes under Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_social_changes_under_Islam)

A panoramic view of [Al-Masjid al-Nabawi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Masjid_al-Nabawi) (the Mosque of the Prophet) in [Medina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medina), Saudi Arabia, is the 2nd most sacred [Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque) in Islam

In Muslim tradition, Muhammad (c. 570 – June 8, 632) is viewed as the last in a series of [prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam).[[118]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-120#cite_note-120) During the last 22 years of his life, beginning at age 40 in 610 [CE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era), according to the earliest surviving biographies, Muhammad reported revelations that he believed to be from God. The content of these revelations, known as the Qur'an, was memorized and recorded by his [companions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahaba). During this time, [Muhammad in Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_in_Mecca) preached to the people, imploring them to abandon polytheism and to worship one God. Although some converted to Islam, Muhammad and his followers were persecuted by the leading Meccan authorities. This resulted in the [Migration to Abyssinia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migration_to_Abyssinia) of some Muslims (to the [Aksumite Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aksumite_Empire)). After 12 years of the [persecution of Muslims by the Meccans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Muslims_by_the_Meccans) and the [Meccan boycott of the Hashemites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meccan_boycott_of_the_Hashemites), [Muhammads](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) relatives, [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) and the Muslims performed the [*Hijra*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijra_%28Islam%29) ("emigration") to the city of [Medina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medina) (formerly known as *Yathrib*) in 622. There, with the Medinan converts ([*Ansar*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ansar_%28Islam%29)) and the Meccan migrants ([*Muhajirun*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhajirun)), [Muhammad in Medina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_in_Medina) established his political and [religious authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theocracy). A state was established in accordance with [Islamic economic jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economic_jurisprudence). The [Constitution of Medina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Medina) was formulated, instituting a number of rights and responsibilities for the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and pagan communities of Medina, bringing them within the fold of one community — the [Ummah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummah). The Constitution established: the security of the community, religious freedoms, the role of Medina as a sacred place (barring all violence and weapons), the security of women, stable tribal relations within Medina, a tax system for supporting the community in time of conflict, parameters for exogenous political alliances, a system for granting protection of individuals, a judicial system for resolving disputes where non-Muslims could also use their own laws. All the tribes signed the agreement to defend Medina from all external threats and to live in harmony amongst themselves. Within years, two battles were then fought against the Meccan forces: the [Battle of Badr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Badr) in 624, which was a Muslim victory, and a year later the Meccans returned to Medina, to fight the [Battle of Uhud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Uhud) in 625, which ended inconclusively.

The Arab tribes in the rest of Arabia then formed a confederation and during the [Battle of the Trench](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Trench), besieged Medina intent on finishing off Islam. During the siege, Banu Qurayza one of the Jewish tribes, inside Medina, broke the peace treaty with the Muslims. This later led to their exile, enslavement, or death, and the Jewish enclave of [Khaybar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Khaybar) was then subdued. In 628, the [Treaty of Hudaybiyyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Hudaybiyyah) was signed between Mecca and the Muslims and was broken by Mecca two years later. After the signing of the [Treaty of Hudaybiyyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Hudaybiyyah) many more people converted to Islam. At the same time, Meccan trade routes were cut off as [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) brought surrounding desert tribes under his control. By 629 Muhammad was victorious in the nearly bloodless [Conquest of Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conquest_of_Mecca), and by the time of his death in 632 (at the age of 62) he united the [tribes of Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribes_of_Arabia) into a single religious [polity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polity).

**Caliphate and civil war (632–750)**

*Further information:* [*Succession to Muhammad*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Succession_to_Muhammad)*,* [*Muslim conquests*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquests)*, and* [*Battle of Karbala*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Karbala)

The Muslim [Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate), 750 CE

With Muhammad's death in 632, disagreement broke out over who would succeed him as leader of the Muslim community. [Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr), a companion and close friend of Muhammad, was made the first [caliph](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliph). His immediate task was to avenge a recent defeat by [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) forces, although he first had to put down a rebellion by Arab tribes in an episode known as the [Ridda wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridda_wars), or "Wars of Apostasy". The Quran was compiled into one book during this time.

The [Great Mosque of Kairouan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque_of_Uqba), established in 670 in [Kairouan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairouan), [Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia), represents one of the best architectural examples of Islamic civilization.

His death in 634 resulted in the succession of [Umar ibn al-Khattab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar_ibn_al-Khattab) as the caliph, followed by [Uthman ibn al-Affan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uthman_ibn_al-Affan), [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib) and [Hasan ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasan_ibn_Ali). The first caliphs are known as *al-khulafā' ar-rāshidūn* ("[Rightly Guided Caliphs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rightly_Guided_Caliphs)"). Under them and with commanders like [Khalid ibn al-Walid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalid_ibn_al-Walid), the territory under Muslim rule expanded deeply into the [Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire) and [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) territories. When Umar was assassinated in 644, [the election of Uthman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_election_of_Uthman) as successor was met with increasing opposition. The Quran was [standardized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Qur%27an#Compilation) during this time.

Local populations of Jews and indigenous Christians, persecuted as religious minorities and taxed heavily to finance the [Byzantine–Sassanid Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine%E2%80%93Sassanid_Wars), often aided Muslims to take over their lands from the Byzantines and Persians, resulting in exceptionally speedy conquests. As new areas joining the Islamic State, they also benefited from free trade, while trading with other areas in the Islamic State, so as to encourage commerce, in Islam trade is not taxed, wealth is taxed. The Muslims paid [Zakat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat) on their wealth to the poor. Since the [Constitution of Medina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Medina), was drafted by the [Islamic prophet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_prophet) [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) the Jews and the Christians continued to use their own laws in the Islamic State and had their own judges.[[130]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-132#cite_note-132)[[131]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-133#cite_note-133)[[132]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-Constitution_of_Medina-134#cite_note-Constitution_of_Medina-134) Therefore they only paid for policing for the protection of their property. To assist in the quick expansion of the state, the Byzantine and the Persian tax collection systems were maintained and the people paid a poll tax lower than the one imposed under the Byzantines and the Persians.

In 639, [Muawiyah I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muawiyah_I) was appointed as the governor of Syria after the previous governor [Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Ubaidah_ibn_al-Jarrah) died in a plague along with 25,000 other people. To stop the Byzantine harassment from the sea during the [Arab-Byzantine Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab-Byzantine_Wars), in 649 [Muawiyah I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muawiyah_I) set up a navy; manned by [Monophysitise Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monophysitism), [Copts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copts) and [Jacobite Syrian Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobite_Syrian_Christian_Church) sailors and Muslim troops. This resulted in the defeat of the Byzantine navy at the [Battle of the Masts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Masts) in 655, opening up the Mediterranean.

The Quran and [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) talked about racial equality and justice as in [The Farewell Sermon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Farewell_Sermon).[[140]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-142#cite_note-142)[[141]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-143#cite_note-143)[[142]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-144#cite_note-144)[[143]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-145#cite_note-145)[[144]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-146#cite_note-146)[[145]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-147#cite_note-147)[[146]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-148#cite_note-148) Tribal and nationalistic differences were discouraged. But after Muhammad's passing the old tribal differences between the Arabs started to resurface. Following the [Byzantine–Sassanid Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine%E2%80%93Sassanid_Wars) deep rooted differences between Iraq, formally under the Persian [Sassanid Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sassanid_Empire) and Syria formally under the [Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) Empire also existed. Each wanted the capital of the newly established Islamic State to be in their area. In 656, [Muhammad ibn Abi Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_ibn_Abi_Bakr) the son of [Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr) and the adopted son of [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib) and the great grandfather of [Ja'far al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27far_al-Sadiq) showed some Egyptians, the house of [Uthman ibn al-Affan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uthman_ibn_al-Affan). Later the Egyptians ended up killing [Uthman ibn al-Affan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uthman_ibn_al-Affan). Ali then assumed the position of caliph and moved the capital to Kufa in Iraq. [Muawiyah I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muawiyah_I) the governor of Syria, a relative of [Uthman ibn al-Affan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uthman_ibn_al-Affan) wanted the culprits arrested. This later resulted in the [first civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Fitna) (the "First Fitna"), Ali was assassinated by [Kharijites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharijites) in 661. Following this, [Mu'awiyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muawiyah_I) seized power and began the [Umayyad dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_dynasty), with its capital in [Damascus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus). These disputes over religious and political leadership would give rise to schism in the Muslim community. The majority accepted the legitimacy of the three rulers prior to Ali, and became known as [Sunnis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni). A minority disagreed, and believed that Ali was the only rightful successor; they became known as the [Shi'a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shi%27a). After Mu'awiyah's death in 680, conflict over succession broke out again in a civil war known as the "[Second Fitna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Fitna)". The Umayyad dynasty conquered the [Maghrib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maghreb), the [Iberian Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), [Narbonnese Gaul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallia_Narbonensis) and [Sindh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh).

As the state grew and the state expenses increased the Umayyads asked the new converts (mawali) to continue paying the poll tax. The Umayyad rule, with its wealth and luxury also seemed at odds with the Islamic message preached by Mohammad. All this increased discontent. The descendants of Muhammad's uncle [Abbas ibn Abd al-Muttalib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbas_ibn_Abd_al-Muttalib) rallied discontented *mawali*, poor Arabs, and some Shi'a against the Umayyads and overthrew them with the help of the general [Abu Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Muslim), inaugurating the [Abbasid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid) in 750, which moved the capital to [Baghdad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baghdad).

**Abbasid era (750–1258)**

See also: [Islamic Golden Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age) and [Abbasid Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate)

[Trade routes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_route) inherited by Muslim civilization were ruined by invading [Crusaders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades), [Mongols](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire) and the [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire). According to [Ibn Khaldun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun) such invasions ruined economies and caused a rise in [banditry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banditry) and [piracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy).

Expansion of the Muslim world continued by both conquest and [proselytism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawah) as both Islam and Muslim trade networks were extending into sub-Saharan [West Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Africa), [Central Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia), [Volga Bulgaria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volga_Bulgaria) and the [Malay archipelago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malay_archipelago). The [Delhi Sultanate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate) ruled most of the Indian subcontinent. Many Muslims also went to [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China) to trade, virtually dominating the import and export industry of the [Song Dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song_Dynasty).

The [major hadith collections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_major_Hadith_collections) were compiled. The [Ja'fari jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27fari_jurisprudence) was formed from the teachings of [Ja'far al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27far_al-Sadiq) while the four Sunni [Madh'habs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madh%27hab), the [Hanafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanafi), [Hanbali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanbali), [Maliki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maliki) and [Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafi%27i), were established around the teachings of [Abū Ḥanīfa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ab%C5%AB_%E1%B8%A4an%C4%ABfa), [Ahmad bin Hanbal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_bin_Hanbal), [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) and [al-Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Shafi%27i) respectively. Al-Shafi'i also codified a method to establish the reliability of hadith. [Al-Tabari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_ibn_Jarir_al-Tabari) and [Ibn Kathir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Kathir) completed the most commonly cited commentaries on the Quran, the [Tafsir al-Tabari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafsir_al-Tabari) in the 9th century and the [Tafsir ibn Kathir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafsir_ibn_Kathir) in the 14th century, respectively. Philosophers [Al-Farabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Farabi) and [Ibn Sina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Sina) (Avicenna) sought to incorporate Greek principles into Islamic theology, while others like [Al-Ghazzali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ghazzali) argued against them and ultimately prevailed.

Caliphs such as [Mamun al Rashid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamun_al_Rashid) and [Al-Mu'tasim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mu%27tasim) made the [mutazilite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutazilite) philosophy an official creed and imposed it upon Muslims to follow. Mu'tazila was a Greek influenced school of speculative theology called [kalam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalam), which refers to [dialectic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialectic). Many orthodox Muslims rejected [mutazilite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutazilite) doctrines and condemned their idea of the creation of the Quran. In inquisitions, Imam Hanbal refused to conform and was tortured and sent to an unlit [Baghdad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baghdad) prison cell for nearly thirty months. The other branch of kalam was the [Ash'ari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash%27ari) school founded by [Al-Ash'ari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ash%27ari). Some Muslims began to question the piety of indulgence in a worldly life and emphasized poverty, humility and avoidance of [sin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_views_on_sin) based on renunciation of bodily desires. Ascetics such as [Hasan al-Basri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasan_al-Basri) would inspire a movement that would evolve into [Sufism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism). Beginning in the 13th century, Sufism underwent a transformation, largely because of efforts to legitimize and reorganize the movement by Al-Ghazali, who developed the model of the Sufi order—a community of spiritual teachers and students.

Islamic civilization flourished in what is sometimes referred to as the "[Islamic Golden Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age)". [Public hospitals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_hospital) established during this time (called [Bimaristan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bimaristan) hospitals), are considered "the first hospitals" in the modern sense of the word, and issued the first medical diplomas to license [doctors of medicine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Medicine). The [Guinness World Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guinness_World_Records) recognizes the [University of Al Karaouine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Al_Karaouine), founded in 859, as the world's oldest degree-granting university. The [doctorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctorate) is argued to date back to the [licenses to teach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijazah) in Muslim [law schools](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_school). Standards of [experimental](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experiment) and [quantification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantification) techniques, as well as the tradition of citation, were introduced to the scientific process. An important pioneer in this, [Ibn Al-Haytham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Al-Haytham) is regarded as the father of the modern [scientific method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method) and often referred to as the "world’s first true scientist." The government paid scientists the equivalent salary of professional athletes today. The data used by [Copernicus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copernicus) for his [heliocentric](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliocentric) conclusions was gathered and [Al-Jahiz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Jahiz) proposed of the theory of [natural selection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_selection). [Rumi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi) wrote some of the finest Persian [poetry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poetry) and is still one of the bestselling poets in America. Legal institutions introduced include the [trust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trust_law) and [charitable trust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charitable_trust) ([Waqf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqf)).

The first Muslims states independent of a unified Muslim state emerged from the [Berber Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_Revolt) (739/740-743). In 930, the [Ismaili](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismaili) group known as the [Qarmatians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qarmatians) unsuccessfully rebelled against the [Abbassids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbassid), sacked [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) and stole the [Black Stone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Stone), which was eventually retrieved. By 1055 the [Seljuq Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seljuq_dynasty) had eliminated the Abbasids as a military power but continued the caliph's titular authority. The [Mongol Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_Empire) finally put an end to the Abbassid dynasty, killing its last Caliph at the [Battle of Baghdad in 1258](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Baghdad_%281258%29).

**Fall of Abbasids to end of caliphate (1258–1924)**

As the Mongol Empire expanded, it also absorbed many Turkish tribes, some of which were Muslim. Therefore at the time of [Genghis Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genghis_Khan) the core of the Mongol army consisted of Mongol and Turkish warriors. The concept of one god was appealing to these tribes and over time many more Turks and the Mongols converted to Islam. [Öz Beg Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96z_Beg_Khan) of the [Golden Horde](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Horde) converted to Islam in the early fourteenth century [Timur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timur) was also a Muslim. [Babur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babur) the founder of the [Mughal Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Empire) was a descendant of [Timur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timur) Lenk a Mongol Emperor.

The [Battle of Nicopolis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Nicopolis) in 1396 became one of the earliest victories of the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).

Expansion continued with independent powers moving into new areas. Muslim generals such as [Saladin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saladin) recaptured the [Holy Land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Land_%28Biblical%29) from the [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusade). The [Crimean Khanate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimean_Khanate) was one of the strongest regional powers in [Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) until the end of the 17th century. The [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) conquered the [Balkans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans), where many became Muslim, and reached as far as [the gates of Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Vienna).

The region of [Kandahar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Kandahar) in [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) witnessed many wars after 1605 between Shi'a [Safavids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_dynasty) and Sunni empires of the east.

While cultural styles used to radiate from Baghdad, the Mongol destruction of Baghdad led [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) to become the Arab heartland while Central Asia went its own way and was experiencing another golden age. The Muslims in China who were descended from earlier [immigration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration) began to assimilate by adopting Chinese names and [culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_culture) while [Nanjing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanjing) became an important center of Islamic study.

The Muslim world was generally in political decline, especially relative to the non-Islamic European powers. Some Muslim areas are believed to have been [depopulated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Depopulation) as a result of Mongol destruction and the [Black Death](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Death). This decline was evident culturally; while [Taqi al-Din](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taqi_al-Din_Muhammad_ibn_Ma%27ruf) founded an observatory in [Istanbul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul) and the Jai Singh Observatory was built in the 18th century, there was not a single Muslim country with a major observatory by the twentieth century. The [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista), launched against Muslim [principalities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taifa) in [Iberia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), succeeded in 1492 and Muslim [Italian states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam_in_southern_Italy) were lost to the [Normans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normans). By the 19th century the [British Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj) had formally ended the last Mughal dynasty in India. The [Ottoman era ended](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) after [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) and the [Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate) was abolished in 1924.

Reform and revival movements during this period include an 18th century [Salafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salafi) movement led by [Ibn Abd al-Wahhab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_ibn_Abdul_Wahhab) in today's Saudi Arabia. Referred to as Wahhabi, their self-designation is Muwahiddun (unitarians). Building upon earlier efforts such as those by the logician [Ibn Taymiyyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Taymiyyah) and [Ibn al-Qayyim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Qayyim), the movement seeks to uphold monotheism and purify Islam of later [innovations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidah). Their zeal against [idolatrous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idolatry_in_Islam) shrines led to the destruction of sacred tombs in Mecca and Medina, including those of Muhammad's Companions. In the 19th century, the [Deobandi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deobandi) and [Barelwi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barelwi) movements were initiated. The [Safavid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_dynasty) rose to power in [Tabriz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabriz) in 1501. The Safavids were originally Sufi After their defeat at the hands of the Sunni Ottomans at the [Battle of Chaldean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chaldiran), to unite the Persians behind him [Ismail I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismail_I) made conversion mandatory for the largely Sunni population to Shia so that he could get them to fight the Sunni Ottomans. They were toppled in 1722 by the [Hotaki dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotaki_dynasty), which ended their forceful conversion of Sunni lands to Shiaism.

**Modern times (1924–present)**

*Further information:* [*Iranian revolution*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_revolution) *and* [*Islamic revival*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_revival)

[National Mosque of Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Mosque_of_Malaysia) in [Kuala Lumpur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuala_Lumpur).

Contact with industrialized nations brought Muslim populations to new areas through economic migration. Many Muslims migrated as indentured servants, from mostly India and [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia), to the [Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean), forming the largest Muslim populations by percentage in the [Americas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas). The resulting urbanization and increase in trade in [sub-Saharan Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa) brought Muslims to settle in new areas and spread their faith, likely doubling the Muslims population between 1869 and 1914. Muslim immigrants, many as [guest workers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guest_workers), began arriving, largely from former colonies, into several Western European nations since the 1960s.

[Abuja mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja_National_Mosque), the national mosque of [Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria).

A mosque in the [Roxbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roxbury%2C_Boston) section of [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston), [Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts), in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States).

The [Kul Sharif Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qol%C5%9F%C3%A4rif_Mosque) in [Kazan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazan), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia)

New Muslim intellectuals are beginning to arise, and are increasingly separating perennial Islamic beliefs from archaic cultural traditions. [Liberal Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_Islam) is a movement that attempts to reconcile religious tradition with modern norms of secular governance and [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights). Its supporters say that there are multiple ways to read Islam's sacred texts, and stress the need to leave room for "independent thought on religious matters". Women's issues receive a significant weight in the modern discourse on Islam because the family structure remains central to Muslim identity.

Secular powers such as Chinese [Red Guards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Guards_%28China%29) closed many mosques and destroyed Qurans and [Communist Albania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_People%E2%80%99s_Republic_of_Albania) became the first country to ban the practice of every religion. In [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), the military carried out coups to oust Islamist governments and headscarves were, as well as in [Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia), banned in official buildings. About half a million Muslims were killed in [Cambodia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Rouge) by communists whom, it is argued, viewed them as their primary enemy and wished to exterminate them since they stood out and worshipped their own god. However, [Islamist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamist) groups such as the [Muslim Brotherhood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Brotherhood) advocate Islam as a comprehensive political solution, often in spite of being banned.[[217]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#cite_note-219#cite_note-219) [Jamal-al-Din al-Afghani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamal-al-Din_al-Afghani), along with his acolyte [Muhammad Abduh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Abduh), have been credited as forerunners of the [Islamic revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_revival). In [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran), [revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_Revolution) replaced [secular](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secularism) regime with an [Islamic state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_state). In [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey), the Islamist [AK Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_and_Development_Party_%28Turkey%29) has democratically been in power for about a decade, while Islamist parties are doing well in elections following the [Arab Spring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring). The [Organization of Islamic Cooperation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation) (OIC), consisting of [Muslim countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_by_country), was established in 1969 after the burning of the [Al-Aqsa Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque) in [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem).

Piety appears to be deepening worldwide. Orthodox groups are sometimes well funded and are growing at the expense of traditional groups. In many places, the prevalence of the [Islamic veil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_veil) is growing increasingly common and the percentage of Muslims favoring Sharia laws has increased. With religious guidance increasingly available electronically, Muslims are able to access views that are strict enough for them rather than rely on state clerics who are often seen as stooges. Some organizations began using the media to promote Islam such as the 24-hour TV channel, [Peace TV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_TV). Perhaps as a result of these efforts, most experts agree that Islam is growing faster than any other faith in [East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Africa) and [West Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Africa).

**Denominations**

Main article: [Islamic schools and branches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches)

Distribution of Sunni, Shia, and Ibadi branches of Islam.

Some of the major [movements in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches).

All denominations of Muslims follow the Quran. The differences between the Sunnis and the Shias are primarily political. After the passing of [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad), there was a need for jurists, to decide on new legal matters. In the years proceeding [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad), Imam [Jafar al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jafar_al-Sadiq) whose views most Shias follow and Imam [Abu Hanifa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Hanifa) and [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) whose views most Sunnis follow worked together in [Al-Masjid an-Nabawi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Masjid_an-Nabawi) in Medina. Along with [Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasim_ibn_Muhammad_ibn_Abu_Bakr), [Muhammad al-Baqir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Baqir), [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali) and over 70 other leading jurists and scholars. [Muwatta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muwatta_Imam_Malik) by [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) was written as a consensus of the opinion, of these scholars.. The [Muwatta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muwatta_Imam_Malik) by [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) quotes 13 hadiths from Imam [Jafar al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jafar_al-Sadiq). [Aisha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aisha) the wife of [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad), also a renowned scholar of her time, taught her nephew [Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasim_ibn_Muhammad_ibn_Abu_Bakr). [Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasim_ibn_Muhammad_ibn_Abu_Bakr) was the grandson of [Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr) and the grandfather of [Jafar al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jafar_al-Sadiq). [Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasim_ibn_Muhammad_ibn_Abu_Bakr) and [Muhammad al-Baqir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Baqir) taught [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali), [Abu Hanifa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Hanifa), [Jafar al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jafar_al-Sadiq) and [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas).

In the books actually written by these original jurists and scholars, there are very few theological differences between them. Imam Ahmad rejected the writing down and codifying of the religious rulings he gave. They knew that they might have fallen into error in some of their judgements and stated this clearly. They never introduced their rulings by saying, "Here, this judgement is the judgement of God and His prophet." There is also very little text actually written down by [Jafar al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jafar_al-Sadiq) himself. They all give priority to the Qur'an and the Hadith (the practice of Muhammad).

Most of the differences are regarding Sharia laws devised through [Ijtihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijtihad) where there is no such ruling in the Quran or the Hadiths of [Islamic prophet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_prophet) [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) regarding a similar case. Therefore the judge continued to use the same ruling as was given in that area during pre-Islamic times, if the population felt comfortable with it, it was just and he used [Ijtihad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijtihad) to deduce that it did not conflict with the Quran or the Hadith. As explained in the [Muwatta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muwatta_Imam_Malik) by [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas). This made it easier for the different communities to integrate into the Islamic State and assisted in the quick expansion of the Islamic State.

To reduce the divergence, [ash-Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash-Shafi%27i) proposed giving priority to the Qur'an and the Hadith (the practice of Muhammad) and only then look at the consensus of the Muslim jurists ([ijma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ijma)), and analogical reasoning ([qiyas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qiyas)) This then resulted in jurists like [Muhammad al-Bukhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Bukhari) dedicating their lives to the collection of the correct Hadith, in books like [Sahih al-Bukhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahih_al-Bukhari). Sahih translates as authentic or correct.

These original jurists and scholars also acted as a counter balance, against the rulers. When they saw injustice, all these Imams spoke out against it. [Abd Allah ibn al-Zubayr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd_Allah_ibn_al-Zubayr), [Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakrs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qasim_ibn_Muhammad_ibn_Abu_Bakr) cousin confronted the [Umayyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad) rulers after [Hussein ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_ibn_Ali) was betrayed by the people of Kufa. In 740, [Abu Hanifah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Hanifah) supported his friend [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali) against an Umayyad ruler. [Abu Hanifah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Hanifah), [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) and [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali)'s family feared that [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali) would get betrayed in [Kufa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kufa). In 767 [Abu Hanifah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Hanifah) died in prison when he refused to support the Abbasid ruler [Al-Mansur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Mansur) and [Malik ibn Anas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malik_ibn_Anas) was flogged.

The differences between the Sunni and Shia amplified after the [Safavid conversion of Iran to Shia Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_conversion_of_Iran_to_Shia_Islam) due to the politics between the [Safavids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavids) and the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). Some of the elite in the old empires of the Middle East felt discontented with the passage of their empires and did not like the Arab Caliphs, their ideas eventually found their way into the religious differences. The Byzantines also benefited when there were political disagreements between the Muslims. In many cases the pre-Islamic customs of the populations that converted to Islam were also absorbed into their rituals. This also amplified the differences.

**Sunni**

Main article: [Sunni Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam)

The largest denomination in Islam is [Sunni Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam), which makes up over 75% to 90% of all Muslims. Sunni Muslims also go by the name *Ahl as-Sunnah* which means *"people of the tradition [of Muhammad]"*. This example is preserved in traditions known as [Al-Kutub Al-Sittah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Kutub_Al-Sittah) (six major books) which are [hadiths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith) ("reports"), recounting [Muhammads](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad) words, actions, and personal characteristics. Sunnis believe that the first four [caliphs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliph) were the rightful successors to Muhammad; since God did not specify any particular leaders to succeed him, those leaders had to be elected. Sunnis believe that a caliph should be chosen by the whole community.

There are four recognized [madh'habs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhhab) (schools of thought): [Hanafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanafi), [Maliki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maliki), [Shafi'i](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shafi%27i), and [Hanbali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanbali). All four accept the validity of the others and a Muslim may choose any one that he or she finds agreeable. The [Salafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salafi) (also known as [Ahl al-Hadith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahl_al-Hadith) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): أهل الحديث; *The people of hadith*), or the pejorative term [*Wahhabi*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wahhabi) by its adversaries) is an ultra-orthodox Islamic movement which takes the first generation of Muslims as exemplary models.

**Shia**

Main article: [Shia Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_Islam)

The [Shi'a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shi%27a) constitute 10–20% of Islam and are its second-largest branch. While Sunnis believe that Muhammad did not appoint a successor, Shias believe that during Muhammad's final pilgrimage to Mecca, he appointed his son-in-law, [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib), as his successor as shown by the [Hadith of the pond of Khumm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_of_the_pond_of_Khumm). As a result, they believe that [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib) was the first *Imam* (leader), rejecting the legitimacy of the previous Muslim caliphs since they were not appointed by [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad). Shias believe that the political and religious [leadership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_leadership) of [Imams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imamah_%28Shia_doctrine%29) come from the direct descendants of Muhammad and [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib), also known as the [Ahl al-Bayt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahl_al-Bayt). To Twelver Shias, an Imam rules by right of divine appointment and holds "absolute spiritual authority" among Muslims, having final say in matters of doctrine and revelation. However, the Imams are not allowed to introduce new laws or eradicate old ones; they are simply required to interpret and reflect the will of Allah and Muhammad.

Shia Islam has several branches, the largest of which is the [Twelvers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelvers), followed by [Zaidis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaidiyyah) and [Ismailis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismaili). After the death of Imam [Ja’far al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ja%E2%80%99far_al-Sadiq&action=edit&redlink=1) (the great grand son of [Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr) and [Ali ibn Abi Talib](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_ibn_Abi_Talib)) considered the sixth Imam by the Shia's, the Ismailis started to follow his son Isma'il ibn Jafar and the Twelver Shia's (Ithna Asheri) started to follow his other son Musa al-Kazim as their seventh Imam. The [Zaydis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaidiyyah) follow [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali) the uncle of Imam [Ja’far al-Sadiq](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ja%E2%80%99far_al-Sadiq&action=edit&redlink=1) as their fifth Imam.

The Twelvers believe that there were [12 Imams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12_Imams) or caliphs after Muhammad. They often cite the [Hadith of the Twelve Successors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith_of_the_Twelve_Successors) as evidence. Shias prefer hadiths attributed to the Ahlul Bayt and close associates. The Twelver Shi'a follow a legal tradition called [Ja'fari jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ja%27fari_jurisprudence).

[Zaydis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaidiyyah), the largest group amongst the Shia before the [Safavid Dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safavid_Dynasty) and currently the second largest group, are the closest to the Sunnis and do not believe in the infallibility of Imāms after Husayn. [Zaydis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zaidiyyah) believe that on the last hour of [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali), he was betrayed by the people in Kufa who said to him: "May God have mercy on you! What do you have to say on the matter of [Abu Bakr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Bakr) and [Umar ibn al-Khattab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar_ibn_al-Khattab)?" [Zayd ibn Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayd_ibn_Ali) said, "I have not heard anyone in my family renouncing them both nor saying anything but good about them...when they were entrusted with government they behaved justly with the people and acted according to the Qur'an and the Sunnah"

Other smaller groups, include the [Bohra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustaali), and [Druze](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druze), as well as the [Alawites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alawites) and [Alevi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alevi). Some Shia branches label other Shia branches that do not agree with their doctrine as [Ghulat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghulat).

**Sufism**

Main article: [Sufism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism)

[Sufi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism) whirling dervishes in [Istanbul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul), [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)

[Sufism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism) is a mystical-ascetic approach to Islam that seeks to find divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. By focusing on the more spiritual aspects of religion, Sufis strive to obtain direct experience of God by making use of "intuitive and emotional faculties" that one must be trained to use. However, Sufism has been criticized by the [Salafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salafi) sect for what they see as an unjustified [religious innovation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidah). Many Sufi orders, or [*tariqas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariqa), can be classified as either Sunni or Shi'a, but others classify themselves simply as 'Sufi'.

**Other denominations**

* [Ahmadiyya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadiyya) is a Messianic movement founded by [Mirza Ghulam Ahmad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirza_Ghulam_Ahmad) that began in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) in the late 19th century and is practiced by millions of people around the world. Most mainstream and orthodox Muslims view the Ahmadiyya movement as heretical.
* The [Ibadi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadi) is a sect that dates back to the early days of Islam and is a branch of [kharijite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharijite). Unlike most Kharijite groups, Ibadism does not regard sinful Muslims as unbelievers.
* The [Quranists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_alone) are Muslims who generally reject the [Hadith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith).
* [Yazdânism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yazd%C3%A2nism) is seen as a blend of local Kurdish beliefs and Islamic [Sufi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufi) doctrine introduced to [Kurdistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan) by [Sheikh Adi ibn Musafir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheikh_Adi_ibn_Musafir) in the 12th century.
* [Nation of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation_of_Islam) (NOI) is a primarily African-American [new religious movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_religious_movement) founded in Detroit during the 20th century.
* [Karaite-Karaism or Karaimism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaite_Folk#Religion) a transitional religion between Mosaism and proto-Shiism, was brought from Khorezm to the [Sabians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabians) of the Bosporan Kingdom (Southern Russia) after the Umayyad attack of 712AD.

**Demographics**

Main articles: [Muslim world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world) and [Ummah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummah)

See also: [List of countries by Muslim population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Muslim_population)

World Muslim population by percentage ([*Pew Research Center*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew_Research_Center), 2009).

A comprehensive 2009 demographic study of 232 countries and territories reported that 23% of the global population, or 1.57 billion people, are Muslims. Of those, it's estimated over 75–90% are [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam) and 10–20% are [Shi'a](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shi%27a_Islam), with a small minority belonging to other sects. Approximately 50 countries are [Muslim-majority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Muslim_majority_countries), and [Arabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabs) account for around 20% of all Muslims worldwide. Between 1900 and 1970 the global Muslim community grew from 200 million to 551 million; between 1970 and 2009 Muslim population increased more than three times to 1.57 billion.

The majority of Muslims live in Asia and Africa. Approximately 62% of the world's Muslims live in [Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia), with over 683 million adherents in [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia), [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), and [Bangladesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh). In the [Middle East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East), non-Arab countries such as [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey) and [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) are the largest Muslim-majority countries; in [Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa), [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) and [Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) have the most populous Muslim communities.

Most estimates indicate that the [People's Republic of China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) has approximately 20 to 30 million Muslims (1.5% to 2% of the population). However, data provided by the [San Diego State University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_State_University)'s International Population Center to [U.S. News & World Report](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._News_%26_World_Report) suggests that China has 65.3 million Muslims. Islam is the second largest religion after [Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) in many [European](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) countries, and is slowly catching up to that status in the [Americas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas), with between 2,454,000, according to Pew Forum, and approximately 7 million Muslims, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), in the United States.

**Culture**

The interior of the [Great Mosque of Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Mosque_of_C%C3%B3rdoba), one of the finest examples of [Ummayad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ummayad) architecture in [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus).

Muslim family in [Tajikistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) celebrating [Eid-ul-Fitr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid-ul-Fitr)

Main article: [Islamic culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_culture)

The term "Islamic culture" could be used to mean aspects of culture that pertain to the religion, such as festivals and dress code. It is also controversially used to mean the culture of traditionally Muslim people. "Islamic civilization" may also refer to the aspects of the synthesized culture of the early Caliphates, including that of non-Muslims.

**Architecture**

Main article: [Islamic architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_architecture)

Perhaps the most important expression of Islamic art is architecture, particularly that of the [mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque) (four-iwan and hypostyle). Through the edifices, the effect of varying cultures within Islamic civilization can be illustrated. The North African and Spanish Islamic architecture, for example, has [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome)-[Byzantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) elements, as seen in the [Great Mosque of Kairouan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque_of_Uqba) which contains marble and porphyry columns from Roman and Byzantine buildings, in the [Alhambra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra) palace at [Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granada), or in the [Great Mosque of Cordoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Mosque_of_Cordoba).

**Art**

Main article: [Islamic art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_art)

Islamic art encompasses the [visual arts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_arts) produced from the 7th century onwards by people (not necessarily [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim)) who lived within the territory that was inhabited by Muslim populations. It includes fields as varied as [architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architecture), [calligraphy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calligraphy), [painting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Painting), and [ceramics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceramics_%28art%29), among others.

Making images of human beings and animals is frowned on in many Islamic cultures and connected with laws against idolatry common to all Abrahamic religions, as 'Abdullaah ibn Mas'ood reported that Muhammad said, "Those who will be most severely punished by Allah on the Day of Resurrection will be the image-makers." (Reported by al-Bukhaari, see al-Fath, 10/382). However this rule has been interpreted in different ways by different scholars and in different historical periods, and there are examples of paintings of both animals and humans in Mughal, Persian and Turkish art. The existence of this aversion to creating images of animate beings has been used to explain the prevalence of calligraphy, tessellation and pattern as key aspects of Islamic artistic culture.

**Calendar**

Main article: [Islamic calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar)

The formal beginning of the Muslim era was chosen to be the [Hijra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijra_%28Islam%29) in 622 CE, which was an important turning point in Muhammad's fortunes. The assignment of this year as the year 1 AH (*Anno Hegirae*) in the Islamic calendar was reportedly made by [Caliph Umar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar). It is a [lunar calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_calendar) with days lasting from sunset to sunset. Islamic [holy days](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_holidays) fall on fixed dates of the lunar calendar, which means that they occur in [different seasons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seasons) in different years in the [Gregorian calendar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar). The most important Islamic festivals are [*Eid al-Fitr*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Fitr) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): عيد الفطر‎) on the 1st of [*Shawwal*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shawwal), marking the end of the fasting month [*Ramadan*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan), and [*Eid al-Adha*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha) (عيد الأضحى) on the 10th of [*Dhu al-Hijjah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhu_al-Hijjah), coinciding with the pilgrimage to Mecca.

**Criticism of Islam**

Main article: [Criticism of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_Islam)

Criticism of Islam has existed since Islam's formative stages. Early written criticism came from Christians, prior to the ninth century, many of whom viewed Islam as a radical Christian [heresy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heresy). Later there appeared criticism from the [Muslim world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world) itself, and also from [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism) writers and from ecclesiastical Christians.

Objects of criticism include the morality of the life of [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad), the last prophet of Islam, both in his public and personal life. Issues relating to the authenticity and morality of the [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an), the Islamic holy book, are also discussed by critics. Other criticisms focus on the question of human rights in modern Islamic nations, and the treatment of women in Islamic law and practice. In wake of the recent [multiculturalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiculturalism) trend, Islam's influence on the ability of Muslim immigrants in the West to assimilate has been [criticized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_multiculturalism).

**See also**

Main article: [Outline of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_Islam)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * [Amman Message](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amman_Message)
* [Christianity and Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_and_Islam)
* [Criticism of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_Islam)
* [Dhikr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhikr)
* [Divisions of the world in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisions_of_the_world_in_Islam)
* [Glossary of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_Islam)
* [History of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam)
* [Islam and animals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_animals)
* [Islam and children](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_children)
* [Islam and modernity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_modernity)
* [Islam and other religions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_other_religions)
* [Islam and science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_science)
* [Islam and secularism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_and_secularism)
 | * [Islam by country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_by_country)
* [Islamic art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_art)
* [Islamic economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economics)
* [Islamic ethics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_ethics)
* [Islamic Golden Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age)
* [Islamic jurisprudence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_jurisprudence)
* [Islamic literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_literature)
* [Islamic studies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_studies)
* [List of Muslim empires and dynasties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Muslim_empires_and_dynasties)
* [List of notable converts to Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_notable_converts_to_Islam)
* [Lists of Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_Muslims)
* [Muslim world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world)
* [Prisoner rights in Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoner_rights_in_Islam)
* [Quran and miracles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quran_and_miracles)
 | * [Scientific foreknowledge in sacred texts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_foreknowledge_in_sacred_texts)
* [Shia Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_Islam)
* [Sunni Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni_Islam)
* [Timeline of Muslim history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Muslim_history)
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