**Muslim**

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A **Muslim**, also spelled **Moslem**, is an adherent of [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam), a [monotheistic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monotheistic) [Abrahamic religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic_religion) based on the [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an)—which Muslims consider the verbatim word of [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God_in_Islam) as revealed to [prophet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam) [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad)—and, with lesser authority than the Qur'an, the [teachings and practices of Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunnah) as recorded in traditional accounts, called [*hadith*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith). "Muslim" is an Arabic word meaning "one who submits to God".

Muslims believe that God is eternal, transcendent, absolutely one (the doctrine of [*tawhid*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawhid), or strict or simple monotheism), and incomparable; that he is self-sustaining, who begets not nor was begotten. Muslim beliefs regarding God are summed up in [chapter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surah) 112 of the Qur'an, [*al-Ikhlas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ikhlas), "the chapter of purity". Muslims also believe that Islam is the complete and universal version of a primordial faith that was revealed at many times and places before, including through the [prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_in_Islam) [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). Muslims maintain that previous messages and revelations have been partially [changed or corrupted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahrif) over time, but consider the Qur'an to be both unaltered and the final revelation from God—Final Testament.

Most Muslims accept as a Muslim anyone who has publicly pronounced the [*Shahadah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahadah) (declaration of faith) which states, "I testify that there is no god except for the God, and I testify that Muhammad is the [Messenger of God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rasul)." They also believe that Muhammad is the [Seal of the Prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_the_Prophets) and the final prophet. Their basic religious practices are enumerated in the [Five Pillars of Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam), which, in addition to Shahadah, consist of daily prayers ([salat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salat)), fasting during [Ramadan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan) ([sawm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawm)), almsgiving ([zakat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zakat)), and the pilgrimage to [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) ([hajj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj)) at least once in a lifetime.

The majority of Muslims are [Sunni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunni), being over 75–90% of all Muslims. The second largest sect, [Shia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia), makes up 10–20%. The most populous Muslim-majority country is [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia) home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims followed by [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) (11.0%), [Bangladesh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh) (9.2%), and [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) (4.9%). Sizable minorities are also found in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_India), [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), [Ethiopia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Ethiopia), [Americas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_the_Americas), [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Australia) and parts of [Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Europe). With about 1.8 billion followers or 26% of [earth's population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population), Islam is the [second-largest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups) and one of the [fastest-growing religions in the world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claims_to_be_the_fastest-growing_religion).

**Etymology**

See also: [Islam#Etymology and meaning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#Etymology_and_meaning)

The word *muslim* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): مسلم‎, IPA: [[ˈmʊslɪm]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_Arabic); English [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmʌzlɨm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmʊzlɨm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmʊslɨm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English) or *moslem* [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmɒzləm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English), [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[ˈmɒsləm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)) is the [participle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participle) of the same verb of which *islām* is the [infinitive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinitive), based on the [triliteral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triliteral) [*S-L-M*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-L-M) "to be whole, intact". A female adherent is a *muslima* ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): مسلمة‎). The plural form in Arabic is *muslimūn* (مسلمون), and its feminine equivalent is *muslimāt* (مسلمات). The Arabic form *muslimun* is the stem IV [participle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_grammar#Participle) of the triliteral *S-L-M*.

**Other words for *Muslim***

The ordinary word in English is "Muslim". It is sometimes [transliterated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transliteration) as "Moslem", which is an older spelling. The word [*Mosalman*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosalman) ([Persian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language): مسلمان‎, alternatively *Mussalman*) is a common equivalent for *Muslim* used in Central Asia.

Until at least the mid-1960s, many English-language writers used the term [*Mohammedans*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammedan) or *Mahometans*. Although such terms were not necessarily intended to be [pejorative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pejorative), Muslims argue that the terms are offensive because they allegedly imply that Muslims worship Muhammad rather than God.

**Meaning**

[Afghan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demography_of_Afghanistan) Muslims praying inside [Gardens of Babur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagh-e_Babur) in [Kabul](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabul), [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan).

In defining *Muslim*, the [mystic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism) [Ibn Arabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Arabi) said:

"A Muslim is a person who has dedicated his worship exclusively to God...*Islam* means making one's religion and faith God's alone.

**Used to describe earlier prophets in the Qur'an**

The Qur'an describes many [prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam) and messengers as well as their respective followers as Muslim: [Adam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_%28Bible%29), [Noah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah), [Abraham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham), [Jacob](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob), [Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Moses) and [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Jesus) and his [apostles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostles) are all considered to be Muslims in the Qur'an. The Qur'an states that these men were Muslims because they submitted to God, preached His message and upheld His values, which included praying, charity, fasting and pilgrimage. Thus, in Surah 3:52 of the Qur'an, Jesus’ disciples tell Jesus, "We believe in God; and you be our witness that we are Muslims (*wa-shahad be anna muslimūn*)." In Muslim belief, before the Qur'an, [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God) had given the [Torah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawrat) to [Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses), the [Psalms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabur) to [David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David) and the [Gospel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Injil) to [Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus), who are all considered important Muslim [prophets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophets_of_Islam).

**Demographics**

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

Main article: [Islam#Demographics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam#Demographics)

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

About 13% of Muslims live in [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Indonesia), the largest Muslim country, 25% in [South Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asia), 20% in the [Middle East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East), 2% in [Central Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia), 4% in the remaining South East Asian countries, and 15% in [Sub-saharan Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Africa). Sizable communities are also found in [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_China) and [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Russia), and parts of the [Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean). Converts and immigrant communities are found in almost every part of the world.

**See also**

* [Islamic schools and branches](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_schools_and_branches)
* [Lists of Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_Muslims)
* [Muslim holidays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_holidays)
* [Muslim world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_world)
* [Musulman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musulman)

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