

Islam beliefs and teachings

The Oneness of Allah - TAWHID

- Sunni and Shi'a Muslims believe that there is only one God: Tawhid. (Islam is a monotheistic religion.)
- The Shahadah shows the belief in one God. 'There is one God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet (and Ali is the friend of God).'
- God is an undivided entity.
- No one else and no other object has God's attributes or qualities.
- The only sin that God will not forgive is the sin of **shirk**. Which is attributing God-like qualities to any other being or thing.
- 'He is God the One, God the eternal.' (Qur'an)

The Supremacy of God's will

- Everything happens under God's will.
- The supremacy of God's will is an article of faith (Sunni).
- God's will is supreme and above all things.
- God is the creator therefore nothing happens unless God allows it, whether it is good or bad.
- Muslims often add the words 'God willing' (Inshallah) after they promise to do something.
- This leads to the belief that God controls everything and humans do not have Free Will.

The Nature of God

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The names of God | There are 99 names of God in the Qur'an. These names help Muslims to understand God's nature. Many Muslims memorise the names of God and recite them when praying. They help Muslims to feel God's presence. 'The Most Excellent Names belong to God: use them to call on Him.' |
| Immanent | God is within all things and present in and beyond life on earth. 'He is with you wherever you are.' |
| Merciful | He understands suffering, cares for them and forgives if they are truly sorry. |
| Omnipotent | He is the creator, sustainer and owner of all things. He is all powerful |
| Transcendent | He is beyond and outside of all things and human understanding |
| Beneficent | Source of all goodness. Life and the Earth is a gift. |
| Just and Fair | He treats people fairly and justly and requires Muslims to do the same. |

Predestination (Al-Qadr)

- God has everything written down determining everything that will happen in the universe
- It is written in the 'book of decrees'. Links to the supremacy of God's will
- 'In all things the master-planning is God's' (Qur'an)
- 'Only what God has decreed will happen to us.'
- 'God does not change the condition of a person [for the worse] unless they change what is in themselves.'

| Sunni | Shi'a |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allah has made it impossible for them to choose anything other than what he has chosen. He has already determined everything that will happen in the universe | Shi'a Muslims believe that God knows all but does not decide all- meaning we have free will/ choice. He knows what has, is and will happen. Humans act freely and God just knows what they will do. |

Impact

- They make God their number 1 priority
- Live according to God's will
- They respect the prophets (not worship them)
- They worship God
- They show their belief in their daily lives. E.g. by repeating the Shahadah
- Muslims accept that bad things happen

Sunni and Shi'a Islam

| Sunni | Shi'a |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunni meaning followers of the Sunnah. | Shi'a Muslims believe that Muhammad had named his cousin Ali as his successor. |
| When Muhammad died, Sunni Muslims believe that the Qur'an and the Sunnah had the authority to guide Muslims. | Ali and his supporters thought that the true leaders (Imams) had to be descendants of Muhammad and chosen by God. |
| They elected Abu Bakr to be their leader (Caliph) to make sure people follow God's laws. | Shi'a Muslims only accept the sayings of Muhammad that have been passed to Ali or his followers. |
| The Caliph's don't make the laws, they enforce them. | |

The 6 Articles of Faith

1. **Tawhid** – the oneness of God
2. **The Prophets of God** – Muhammad is the most important prophet of God
3. **The Day of Judgment** – When humanity will be judged by God
4. **The supremacy of God's Will** – God knows all and allows all to happen
5. **Holy Books** – The Qur'an is the highest authority
6. **Angels** – the communication from God to humans

Angels

- The belief in angels in Islam is called **Malaikah**
 - One of the six articles for Sunni Islam.
 - Created from light, pure, sinless, no freewill
 - Receive God's word and pass them to prophets
 - They live to worship God, and are his first creation
 - They have the power to take human form
- 'They exalt him night and day and do not slacken'

The 5 Roots of Usul ad-Din

1. **Tawhid** – the oneness of God
2. **The Prophets of God** – Muhammad is the most important prophet of God
3. **Resurrection** – After death they will be resurrected and judged by God
4. **Justice of God** – God is just and wise and holds humans accountable for their actions
5. **Imamate** – Accepting the 12 Imams as leaders of Islam

Sunni: Sunni Muslims believe that angels always obey God's commandments because they have no free will.

Shi'a:

- Shia Muslims believe that angels do have free will and, whilst they are obedient to God's commandments, they are able to stray and disobey Him.
- After Muhammad's death and angel came to Ali to be the next leader

| Jibril | Mika'il | Israfil | Others |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is an archangel and is a trusted messenger of God. • He is responsible for revealing the Qur'an to Muhammad and brings messages to God's chosen ones • He guided Muhammed throughout his entire life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The angel of mercy • Rewards the righteous for the good and sends rain, thunder and lightning • Warns that anyone who is an enemy of God's angels is an enemy of God. | Will blow the trumpet on the Day of Judgement to announce the resurrection of all from the dead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azrail takes souls at death • Raqib and Atid note down our good and bad deeds • Munkar and Nakir test the faith of the dead |

The Imamate

- Shi'a believe that Muhammad named Ali, his successor- he became the first Imam.
- Shi'a believe that Muhammad appointed him by divine instruction and therefore leadership should follow in the family line.
 - **The Twelver branch** of Shi'a Islam believes that there have been 12 Imams in total. The final leader is hidden and will be revealed when Allah decides
 - **The Sevener branch** believe that the 7th Imam should have been Isma'ili not his younger brother
- Muhammad al-Mahdi was the last Imam and kept alive and hidden somewhere on earth and will return with Jesus to bring justice and equality.
- The Imams rule justly and are also the only people who can interpret the Qur'an without fault.

Life after death

- **Akhirah:** The belief in everlasting life after death.
- Muslims believe that when they die a person still has a conscious existence in the grave.
- They enter a state of waiting called **barzakh** which means barrier.
- They are waiting for the day of judgement. While lying in the grave, God will send two angels to question them about their faith. This results in their rewards and punishments.
- Others believe they will stay in their graves until the end of the world when day of judgement will come.

| Day of Judgement | Resurrection | Heaven/Paradise/Jannah | Hell/Jahannam |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will come when God's purpose for the universe has been fulfilled. • Angel Israfil will blow the trumpet and announce that the world will be destroyed. • God will forgive those who are truly sorry for what they have done. • God sorts the souls by making them cross a narrow bridge that is over the fires of hell. | <p>When Angel Israfil blows the horn again, everyone who had ever lived will be raised from the dead and judged by God. If the book of deeds is put in left hand they go to Hell, if right hand, Heaven.</p> | <p>Described as the gardens of happiness. It is a reward for those of faith and good deeds.</p> <p>'Gardens of paradise will be there to welcome them'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some believe that Heaven and Hell are exactly as written in the Qur'an ○ Others think they are symbolic of the spiritual life a person will live after their death, either in presence or absence of God ○ They are only hints or suggestions because they are beyond our understanding | <p>Described as a place of fire and torment. It is a punishment for those who reject God and do evil. It is absence from God.</p> <p>'Garments of fire will be tailored to those who disbelieve' (Qur'an)</p> |

Prophethood

- Prophets are God's chosen people to bring the message of Islam to people.
 - Belief in prophets is known as **Risalah**.
 - Method of communication between God and humans.
 - God gives instructions to prophets to teach people about how he wants them to live.
 - They are considered role models to believers and are good people who live according to God's will.
- 'Every community is sent a messenger, and when their messenger comes, they will be judged justly; they will not be wronged'**

Prophet Ibrahim

- He declared his belief in one God (Allah). He determined to stop idol worship.
- One day, when everyone left the town, he took an axe and destroyed all the idols in the temple.
- He asked why people worship an idol that cannot speak, hear or defend themselves.
- Ibrahim was burned alive. A miracle occurred and burned the chains and he walked out completely unscathed. Many people began to follow God.

| The Ka'aba | Ishmael | Hajj |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| House of God and holiest place in Islam. Originally built by Adam but was destroyed by the flood at the time of Noah. Ibrahim and Ishmael rebuilt it on the same site. | Ibrahim had a dream to sacrifice his son to God. Ibrahim's willingness to be obedient saved Ishmael's life and God swapped him with a lamb. He was a man of faith. During the festival of Id-ul-Adha , Muslim's slaughter an animal to remember Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son. | Muslims throw stones at the pillars the same way that Ibrahim threw stones at the devil that tempted him to disobey God. When pilgrims run between the two hills they remember the story of Ibrahim's wife Hagar, who searched for water and God rewarded her with the well. |

Prophet Adam

- First man and first prophet of Islam – Father of human race
- Created by God from dust of the ground
- **'He taught Adam the name of all things...'**
- God then asked Adam to teach the angels. The angels then bowed to him. **Iblis** (the Devil) refused to bow and was thrown out of paradise, and he vowed to tempt humans to sin.
- God created Eve (Hawwa) for Adam and they lived in the garden of Eden. Iblis deceived them into disobeying God and eating from the tree. They were thrown from paradise and brought sin into the world.

Impact

- Accept suffering and know what God will provide justice
- Avoid sin and do the right thing
- Aware they are accountable for their actions
- Encourages responsibility for their actions
- Part of 6 articles of faith and 5 roots of Usul as-Din
- Will strive to amend the wrongs they have done during their lives through asking for forgiveness

Importance of Prophet Adam

- First to learn to plant seeds, cook, bury the dead correctly, harvest crops
- First to repent for wrongdoings
- God told him what food to eat
- First Khalifa

Importance of Prophet Ibrahim

- Refused to worship idols
- Role model- obedience, kindness and compassion
- Muhammad was one of his descendants
- Passed all of God's tests
- Father of all nations

Holy Books

The Qur'an:

- Mixture of historical accounts and advice on how to follow God. Arranged in length of chapters, 144 Surah
- Revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibril over a period of 22 years
- Must be kept at top shelf, cannot touch ground, proper cleaning,

Importance of Qur'an

- Word of God. Foundation of every believer's faith.
- Most sacred text of Islam. Infallible source of authority.
- Original is in heaven, so when Muslims read it they believe God is directly speaking to them.
- Used in prayer, sermons, to live out greater Jihad, to teach Arabic

'This is the Scripture in which there is no doubt, containing guidance for those who are mindful of God.' (Qur'an)

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Torah (Tawrat) | Revealed to Moses (Musa). It is mentioned 18 x in the Qur'an. |
| Psalms (Zabur) | Revealed to David. It is mentioned 3 x. Similar to Psalms in the Bible. |
| Gospel (Injil) | Revealed to Jesus (Isa) It is believed to be lost but some messages can be found in the Bible. Mentioned 12 x |
| Scrolls of Ibrahim | Referred to in the Qur'an but have been lost and no longer exist. Revealed to Ibrahim. |

Prophet Muhammad

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Muhammad's Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is known as the last and greatest prophet. • Born in Mecca, was an orphan and married a wealthy widow, Khadija at the age of 25. • Angel Jibril appeared to him with a message from God. For more than 20 years, Muhammad received further revelations from God making the Qur'an. |
| Muhammad's preaching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After his revelation, Muhammad proclaimed that God is one. • He challenged the people of Mecca to give up cheating, gambling, drinking and idol worship. • Muhammad fled persecution with his followers to Madinah in 622CE. • This was the start of Hajj and Ummah. • After the night journey, Muhammad gathered a tribe of 10,000 Muslims converts and conquered the city in the name of Allah. |
| The Night Journey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muhammad recorded this in the Qur'an. • The angel Jibril took Muhammad to Jerusalem on a horse-like creature with wings. • He then ascended into heaven and spoke to God and the past prophets. • Isa (Jesus) told Muhammad that people should pray 5 times a day. |