



What is Islam?

Islam is the final revelation to mankind from our Creator, Allah [God]. It teaches mankind our purpose in life, our relationship with our Lord, how to live with justice and compassion, and most importantly how to attain salvation in the hereafter. Islam can also be used as a verb meaning to submit, i.e. submitting one's will to God.

What are the pillars of Islam?

The pillars are as follows, to testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah [God] and Muhammad is His messenger, to perform the 5 mandatory daily prayers, to pay a poor tax, to fast in the month of Ramadhan, and to make a Holy Pilgrimage. These pillars are acts of worship that increase Muslims in their awareness of Allah [God] and also serve as means of purification.

Who are Muslims?

Muslims are those who *willingly* submit themselves to Allah [God]. These people are those who belong to the Islamic faith. They are the ones who proclaim that, "There is nothing worthy of worship except Allah [God] and Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him) is his last and final Messenger."

What do Muslims believe?

Muslims believe in One God who has no partner or equal, Allah. They believe in His angels, His Books (i.e. the Torah, the Gospel, the Qur'an, etc.), His messengers (i.e. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, etc. ; (peace be upon them all), the Last Day, and the divine decree.

Some Key Concepts in Islam

- Islam is a religion of truth.
- Islam is not necessarily a new religion.
- Every nation received messengers from Allah [God].
- These messengers always called their people to reject all false deities and worship their creator alone.
- These messengers delivered the message successfully (some messengers were rejected by their own people, others were accepted, however the message was delivered).
- The previous revelations [Bible, Torah, Gospel, Psalms, etc.] were all, at one point, wholly perfect, but it is the fault of some corrupt men who changed the text to follow their own whims and desires.
- Because the scriptures were altered, and the words of Allah were no longer discernable between the words of these men, Allah [God] sent new messengers.
- Muhammad (peace and blessing upon him) is the last in the line of messengers to come with a new revelation.
- Muhammad (peace and blessing upon him) is the messenger for all mankind.

- Every person reaps what he or she sows. This is justice. Therefore sins cannot be transferred, i.e. no original sin and no one else dying for another's sins.
- It is every person's own responsibility to seek out the truth and not just believe in a religion because his or her parents belong to that religion. Have you not noticed how you differ from friends and co-workers in religion and how this decision was not made by you, but rather by your parents? Is it not also true that most people say we believe [in our religion], because we found our fathers worshipping the same thing.

"And when it is said to them, Follow what Allah has revealed, they say: Nay! we follow what we found our fathers upon. What! and though their fathers had no sense at all, nor did they follow the right way." [2:170 Holy Quran]

Blind Faith vs. Knowledge

Talk to any person and ask them why they believe in their religion. Most cannot give you a legitimate answer. Some will say they believe that it is the truth and they have faith that it is the truth. But how reliable is faith? Faith doesn't hold up in a court of law. So when we are talking about a matter as serious as salvation, eternal damnation, heaven and hell, why do people shrug their shoulders and chalk it all up to faith? Not that faith is unnecessary, but how come truth is not arrived through knowledge? And how is it that Muslims are so firm in their belief that they go around claiming that Islam is the true religion?

Firstly, Allah reveals in the Qur'an its truthfulness and certainty, and describes how it is a Book for those of understanding: *"This Book, there is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who guard (against evil)."* [2:2]

"Most surely there is a reminder in this for the men of understanding." [39:21]

The Qur'an also mentions the tools for understanding: *"And He it is Who created for you the ears and the eyes and the hearts; little is it that you give thanks."* [23:78]

"... those who disbelieve is as the parable of one who calls out to that which hears no more than a call and a cry; deaf, dumb (and) blind, so they do not understand." [2:171]

"And Allah has brought you forth from your mothers' wombs knowing nothing-but He has endowed you with hearing, sight, and minds so that you may be grateful" [16:78]

"...they have hearts with which they do not understand, and they have eyes with which they do not see, and they have ears with which they do not hear; they are as cattle, nay, they are in worse errors; these are the heedless ones."[7:179]

Notice how if we do not use the gifts of sight, hearing, and understanding to arrive at the truth, Allah [God] describes us as being worse than cattle, a beast of burden! It is therefore necessary that people use these faculties to arrive at the true worship of their Creator.

Then He [Allah] also challenges humanity to disprove the truthful nature of Islam. No other religion asks this much of its adherents. Think about it, what other religion asks its adherents to challenge its validity? Only Allah [God], Who is far removed from any imperfection, is capable of such a challenge!

"And if you are in doubt as to that which We have revealed to Our servant, then produce a chapter like it and call on your witnesses besides Allah if you are truthful."[2:23]

"Or, do they say: He has forged it. Say: Then bring ten forged chapters like it and call upon whom you can besides Allah, if you are truthful." [11:13]

Note: At the time of revelation, the Arabs were famous for their poetry yet none of the great Arab poets of the time were able to produce any work close to the majesty of the Qur'an. Although many tried they failed and gave up.

"Do they not consider the Qur'an? Had it been from any other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy." [4:82]

But whoever disputes with you in this matter after what has come to you of knowledge, then say: Come let us call our sons and your sons and our women and your women and our near people and your near people, then let us be earnest in prayer, and pray for the curse of Allah on the liars. [3:61]

After reading these passages of the Qur'an, the last revelation to mankind, it is obvious that blind faith doesn't cut it. So what evidences lead Muslims to declare that this is The True Religion:

Aside from the miraculous nature of the Qur'an there are many other things that direct one to believe that Islam is the Truth.

I. The Evidences from Past Scriptures about the Coming of Muhammad (peace be upon him)

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account." Deuteronomy: 18:18-19

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak." John 16:13

“And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.” Isaiah 29:12

These passages from the Old and New Testament perfectly describe Muhammad (peace be upon him), the truthful and illiterate Prophet who repeated the Revelations after hearing them and always began with ‘bismillah’ (in the name of God). Being illiterate is another one of the Signs of our Lord. He has given Muhammad (peace be upon him) the Greatest Book ever recorded in the history of Arabic Language. How could an uneducated man write a book that scholars and poets couldn’t even match?

II. Proof that messengers delivered a message to worship ONE GOD, more specifically, that Jesus (peace be upon him) was a Messenger of Allah[God] and that he commanded people to worship The One God:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5:17

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. ’ ” Matthew 22:36-38

III. Evidence that Previous Scriptures Have Been Changed:

Torah: There is no unanimous opinion regarding the revelation of the Torah. Most Rabbinic scholars hold the belief that Moses (peace be upon him) wrote the whole Torah in one sitting, however, some verses present knowledge that could only exist after the time of Moses. Also the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls shorten the book of Jeremiah, change the sequence of events in the battle of Jericho, and add 9 “new” Psalms of King David (peace be upon him). *Mysteries of the Bible, Jeffrey L. Sheler U.S.News & World Report, pg 67-69

Bible: One need not look further than the Catholic vs. Protestant controversy to see that the Scripture has been tampered with. The Catholic Bible has several more books than the Protestant Bible, a clear indication that some form of tampering has occurred. This most likely occurred during the Reformation Period of Europe.

Due to people adding, changing, or shortening the message becomes distorted so Allah has to send a new Messenger and a new Book; hence, the Qur’an. Allah [God] also adds:

Absolutely, We have revealed the reminder [this Qur’an], and, absolutely, We will preserve it. [15:9]

IV. Scientific Miracles of the Qur’an:

“Do the disbelievers not see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one) before We tore them apart? We made every living thing from water. Then, will they not believe?” [21:30]

Resembles the Big Bang Theory doesn’t it? The description that all life comes from water is a scientific theory that would not have

been common knowledge to the Arabs at the time. Today this scientific concept of life coming from water is referred to as “the Primordial Soup”.

The Qur’an also describes Embryology: “Then We made him a small seed in a firm resting-place, then We made the seed a clot, then We made the clot a lump of flesh, then We made (in) the lump of flesh bones, then We clothed the bones with flesh, then We caused it to grow into another creation, so blessed be Allah, the best of the creators.” [23:13-14]

Along with this accurate description of human development the Qur’an accurately describes Astrology, Geology, Hydrology, and more! All of these accurate descriptions confirmed within the last century should suggest to anyone gifted with sight and reason that an illiterate Arab living over 1400 years ago could not have written such accurate claims. Rather, it must come from a Divine source. Who else to better describe His Creation. A desert Arab, or The Creator Himself!

V. Historical Events in the Qur’an that Have Come to Pass:

“The Romans have been defeated in the nearest land (to the Arabian Peninsula), and they, after their defeat, will be victorious within bedd’ (three to nine) years....” [30:2-4]

The Romans and the Persians were the two big super-powers at the time surrounding the Arabian Peninsula. In 613, the Romans were defeated by the Persians at Antioch. Exactly nine years later, they returned to defeat the Persians.

The Qur’an also relates the story of the people of Iram, verses 89:7-8. This was a city that vanished off the face of the earth. Many believed it to be just legend, until its discovery in 1992 by Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

The 111th Chapter (Soorah) in the Qur’an pertains to Abu Lahab, one of the Prophet’s (peace be upon him) uncle’s as well as persecutors. Allah describes how he is destined for the hellfire. The odd thing about this Revelation is that it occurred 10 years before his death. To disprove the Qur’an as the word of Allah, all Abu Lahab had to do was accept Islam. However this was not the case, so he died on disbelief.

Conclusion:

This is a small and brief compilation of evidences verifying the truth of Islam; A testimony to how Allah [God] makes His Signs clear. Now, if you believe in all that has been revealed here and desire to join the fastest growing religion in the United States, all that is required is for you to recite “*La ilaha ill Allah, Muhammadur rasoolu Allah*” (There is nothing worth of worship except Allah [God], Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah) with firm belief and conviction. May we finally free ourselves from the servitude of this world and the servitude of men so that we may serve Our Lord, the exalted, and may He guide us all to the Straight path.

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