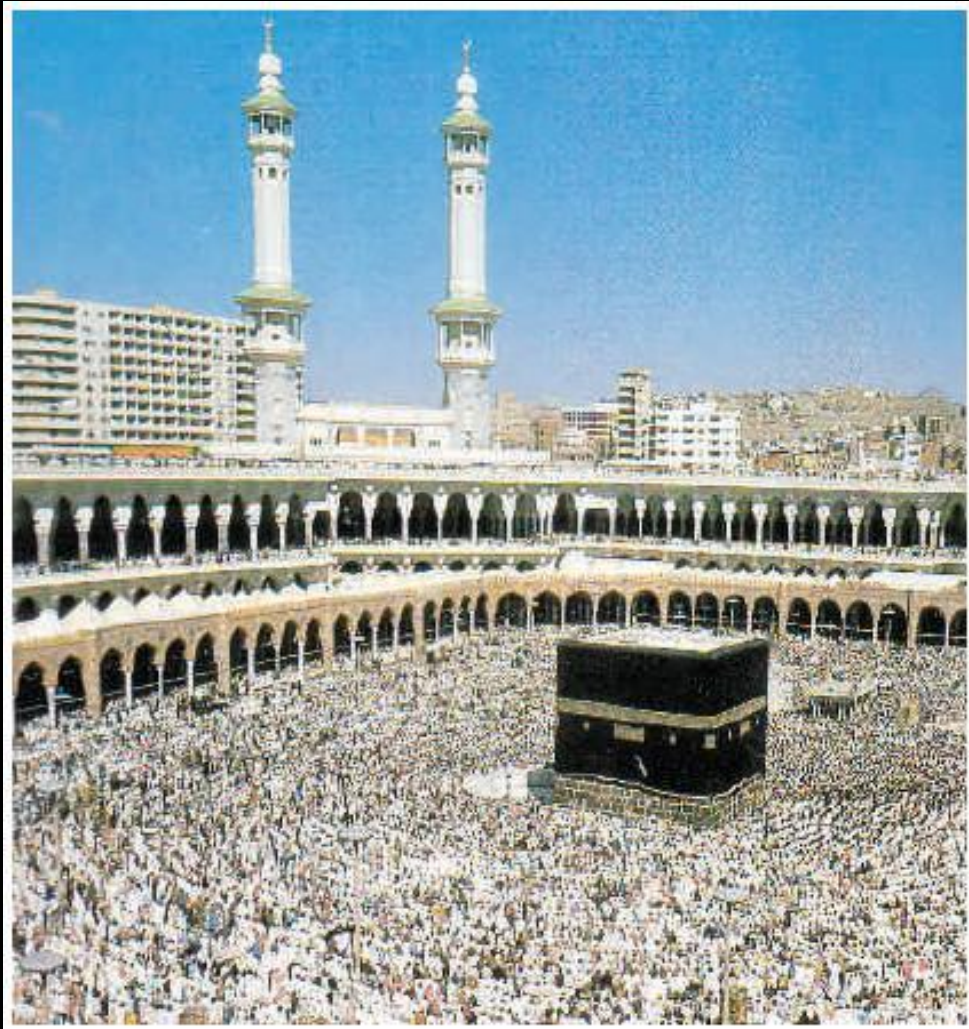


A to Z of ISLAM

BRIEF GUIDE



Mohammad Javad B.A. MAcc.

Introduction

Today more than ever in history the word *Islam* is in most people's vocabulary. There is more interest in *Islam* now than in the past, and what it represents and stands for. The 'War on Terror' and the term Islamic terrorist have been used in the media to label and demonise an entire group of people representing a quarter of the world's population.

But what does the average person really know about Islam? What are the facts and what are the myths surrounding this global phenomenon, the fastest growing religion in the world?

This book attempts to explain the basic concepts and beliefs of Islam through referenced sources. The author has attempted to summarise the contents of the second book in Islam after the Quran, which is Sahih Al-Bukhari which contains over 6,000 statements of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) many of which are repeated.

The aim of this book is to provide a 'flavour' of Islam for everyone: Muslim and Non-Muslim, to inform the individual about Islam and not persuade. It is not my intention to offend anyone, their way of life or their views, personal beliefs and practices, but to explain what Islam stands for.

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A

ABORTION

According to Islam life starts at 120 days when an angel breathes the soul into the foetus. (See LIFE) Therefore, abortion after 120 days is *haram* (forbidden) in Islam according to the Hanafi school of thought which represents the majority of Muslims in the world. [See (Four) IMAMS and SUNNI MUSLIMS below] Killing the foetus in the womb after this period is regarded as murder in Islam and both parents will be held accountable on the Day of Judgement. The exception to this rule is if there is immediate danger to the life of the mother before or after 120 days in which case abortion is allowed.

ABRAHAM (PBUH)

According to Islam Abraham was the father of the Prophet Isaac (and Ishmael) who was the father of the Prophet Jacob who was the father of the Prophet Joseph. ¹

(V4:596) Muslims have high regard for the Prophet Abraham who established the *Kabah* (House of Allah), the first house of God (Allah) according to Islam in *Makkah* in Saudi Arabia. According to Islam the Prophet Abraham, “was neither a Jew nor a Christian, and he used to worship none but Allah.” ² **(V5:169)**

ABU BAKR

Abu Bakr was the first man to become a Muslim, that is, the first man to accept the Prophet's claim to Prophethood. He became the first *Caliph* (leader) of the Muslim world after the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) passed away. He was the father of Aisha the Prophet's wife and therefore was his father in law.

ADAM (PBUH)

Adam was the first human created by Allah. The same story of Adam and Eve is taught and accepted in Islam with the exception that the blame was entirely on Adam's shoulders.

The story of Adam and Eve was all part of the plan of Allah. That is, predestination. In order for the human race to begin Adam had to be sent to earth and this was as a result of him eating the forbidden fruit of a particular tree in Paradise.

According to Islam Adam was sixty cubits tall. ³ (V4:543) That is, approximately 90 feet tall or 30 metres. ⁴ (V8:246) Islam tells Muslims that Adam and his children and their children were very tall. Over time mankind's stature has diminished.

AHLE-BAYT

The term for the relatives of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh).

AHLE-KITAB

Ahle-Kitab means People of the Book and stands for the Jews and the Christians. That is, those who follow the original Torah, Psalms of David and the New Testament of Jesus Christ (pbuh). Muslims believe the current books of the Jews and the Christians are not in their original form.

AL-AQSA MOSQUE

According to Islam the Al-Aqsa mosque was built by *Jinns* (See JINN below) on the instructions of the Prophet Sulaiman [Solomon] (pbuh). According to Islam Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem was built 40 years after the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah in Saudi Arabia. ⁵ **(V4:585)**

Al Aqsa mosque is the holiest site to Muslims after Makkah and Madina in Saudi Arabia. It was here the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) made a stop over during his Night

Journey (See MIRAJ) and led 124,000 Prophets (more or less) of God in prayer including Noah (pbuh), Moses (pbuh) Abraham (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh)

ALCOHOL

Muslims are forbidden from consuming alcohol. This is because the Quran, which Muslims believe is the direct word of God communicated to mankind by the Angel Gabriel through Muhammad (pbuh) gives this instruction.

‘...In them (drinking alcohol and gambling) is a great sin, and some benefits for men, but the sin of them is greater than they ought to spend...’ ⁶ **[Q2:219]**

“All drinks that produce intoxication (loss of mind) are forbidden in Islam.” ⁷
(V1:243)

The negative consequences of drinking alcohol are the reasons for its banning. Drinking alcohol can result in loss of one’s ability to control the mind and one’s behaviour. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “The Alcoholic drink is that which confuses and stupefies the mind.” ⁸ **(V6:143)** Something might be said that is unacceptable hurting someone’s feelings and alcohol increases one’s confidence resulting in the individual becoming uninhibited and having sexual relations with others. In addition, alcohol can be addictive and dependent on it to forget one’s problems and it can damage the liver acting like a slow poison.

As well as not being allowed to drink alcohol Muslims are instructed not to trade in alcohol. ⁹ (V1:449)

ALLAH

Muslims believe the name of the one True God is Allah. Allah created and controls the Universe and everything in it (stars, planets, galaxies, moon, sun and all life) and relies on no-one. Nothing can happen without His approval. Allah was not created by anyone and has always existed even before the Universe came into being. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “First of all there was nothing but Allah.” ¹⁰ (V4:414) Allah has no partner, is neither male nor female, and is invisible or veiled from us and is aware of each and everyone’s individual circumstances and all we do in this life.

According to Islam it is mankind’s role in life to submit to His Will and to worship Him. Knowledge of Allah’s existence and his instructions for us have been communicated to mankind through His Messengers and Prophets since history. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) instructed his followers to worship Allah alone and not to worship anything along with Him. ¹¹ (V1:6)

ANGELS

Muslims believe in the existence of Angels. These are spiritual creations of Allah made out of light and therefore cannot be seen by humans. They are servants of Allah, obeying His instructions and also worshiping Him. They are neither male nor female. They do not have parents, wives, children or relatives as in our case. In addition, they don't eat, drink or sleep.

The most famous ones are named as Jibreel (Archangel Gabriel) responsible for conveying Allah's Messages to the Prophets, that is, the go-between God and the Prophets, Mika'eel (who controls weather), Israfeel (Trumpet holder see TRUMPET below) and Izra'eel (The Angel of Death) who takes the soul out of the body when one's time is up in this world.

In addition to these angels Muslims believe each and every individual is accompanied by two recording angels with them throughout their lives. These angels act as witnesses to our actions. One angel rests on the left shoulder and records sins or negative behaviour and actions of the individual and the other angel rests on the right shoulder recording good, positive or worthy deeds in the individual's personal book of deeds. In addition, good intentions are also recorded in the individual's books of deeds as good deeds even if they are not done and if someone intends of doing a bad deed but doesn't do it then this is recorded as a good full deed. (See SAWAAB below)

According to Islam, there are four angels assigned to every human being and they operate in shifts. The first set of two angels stay with us through the night until the morning (Fajr) prayer and leave when the second set arrives. Then the first set goes back to heaven to report back to Allah on our status (sleeping, praying, ill etc). The

first set then return in the evening during the Asar prayer when the second set leaves to report back. ¹² **(V1:530)** According to Islam this process continues everyday for the individual until he or she dies. Good intentions are also recorded in the individual's books of deeds

ANIMALS

Animal cruelty is forbidden in Islam. Animals have a soul like human beings. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "A woman entered hell because of a cat which she had tied, neither giving it food nor setting it free." ¹³ **(V4:535)**

He also said, "A prostitute was forgiven by Allah because...she passed by a dying dog and... drew out some water (from a well) for it (to drink). So Allah forgave her because of that (i.e. her compassion)." ¹⁴ **(V4:538)**

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) cursed the person who mutilated an animal by cutting limbs off whilst it was still alive ¹⁵ **(V7:424)** and forbid beating an animal on the face. ¹⁶ **(V7:449)**

All Prophets (pbut) including Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) were shepherds and cared for and looked after their flocks. Therefore treatment of animals has to be humane.

AZAAN

The *Azaan* is the Muslim (first) call to prayer. In Muslim countries it is uttered aloud through speakers in the mosque to let the faithful know it is time for the obligatory prayer. It is in Arabic and recited by a person called the *Muazzin* who faces the *Kabah (House of Allah)* in Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

There is usually about a fifteen minute interval between the *Azaan* and the second call to prayer the *Iqamat*. This is to allow the individual time to reach the mosque and perform the voluntary part of the prayer before lining up in congregation for the *fard* (obligatory) part of the five daily prayers.

New born babies have the *Azaan* of the Fajr (morning prayer) said to them softly in the right ear followed by the *Iqamat* (second call to prayer) in the left ear to let the soul know it is a Muslim soul. This usually happens at the earliest opportunity after birth and usually by a religious person, a family member or the local Imam from the mosque.

The *Azaan* in English is as follows: Allah is the greatest (four times), there is no God but Allah (twice), Muhammad (pbuh) is the Messenger of Allah (twice), come to prayer (twice) facing the right side, come to success (twice) facing the left side, Allah is the greatest (twice), and finally, there is no one worthy of worship but Allah (twice).

B

BELIEF

A Muslim is not classed a Muslim until he/she believes in the following fundamental principles of Islam ¹⁷ (V1:47): They are grouped under the headings of (1) *Imaan-e-Mujmal* (Belief-Abridged) and (2) *Imaan-e-Mufassal* (Belief Detailed).

1. Oneness of Allah: there are no partners or offspring, rejection of Trinity and Prophets Jesus (pbuh) and Ezra [Uzair (pbuh)] as God incarnate or as sons of God.

2. Belief in Angels. (See ANGELS above)

3. Belief in the Books Of Allah: this includes the Torah and the Psalms of David and the New Testament (although Muslims consider the present versions as corrupted and distorted versions) and the Quran as being the last and final book.

4. Belief in all the Prophets and Messengers of Allah including Jesus (pbuh) as a Prophet of Islam. Rejection of Jesus (pbuh) makes the individual classed as a Non-Muslim.

5. Belief in the Day of Judgement: when the individuals actions and behaviours will be weighed on scales by placing books of deeds on the scales. All actions and behaviours are written and recorded in these books of deeds by appointed angels who remain with the individual during his/her lifetime. That is, the angel on the left shoulder records all bad deeds and the angel on the right shoulder records good deeds.

6. Individual Responsibility: good and bad fortune (luck or fate) comes from God, however, we can carry out our own actions for doing good or evil. That is, we choose our destiny to do the right or wrong thing.

7. Belief in the Day of Resurrection: when mankind will be recreated from the spinal bone.

BOOKS & BOOKLETS OF ALLAH

Muslims believe in 4 main books: the *Taurat* (Torah) as communicated to mankind by the Prophet Moses (pbuh), *Zaboor* (Psalms) as communicated to mankind by the Prophet David (pbuh), *Injeel* (New Testament) as communicated to mankind by the Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the Quran as communicated to mankind by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Muslims believe these books were revealed to the Prophets over time at different stages in history for the guidance of mankind. They believe the present day versions are not in their original forms and have been corrupted apart from the Quran.

In addition, they believe that certain Prophets were given divine booklets known as '*Saheefah*' as guidance for their followers.

BUKHARI (see also HADITH)

This is the shortened name given to Imam Bukhari, the person who collected, compiled and summarised the comments, teachings, sayings, words and rulings by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) into volumes on a range of subjects. There are over 6,000 statements of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) in Sahih Al-Bukhari, many repeated, the second most important book after the Quran in Islam. This work was researched and compiled during his life (810-870A.D). Most of the *ahadith* (plural) were collected and became known as the *Sahih* (authentic collections).

These *ahadith* (plural) were originally recorded by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)'s companions (*Sahabah*) and his family. *Sahih Al-Bukhari* is accepted worldwide and ranked only second to the Holy Quran as the most important book in Islam.

C

CALIPH or KHALIPHA

This is the term for the rulers in the early days of Islam, there is no Caliphate now. After the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) died his successor and his friend and companion Abu Bakr was elected as the first Caliph of the Muslims, he was followed by Umar and then Uthman and finally by Ali, collectively known as *Al-Khulafa Ar Rashideen*.

Muslims believe the final Caliphate in the Muslim world will be at the end of time during when Imam Mahdi will rule the whole world (See MAHDI below) just before the return of Jesus (pbuh) Christ.

CELEBRITIES

Celebrity worship is not encouraged in Islam. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “ Do not wish to be like anyone, except two.” That is the person with wealth who spends it on good causes such as charity and the second person is the spiritual person who is pious and humble. ¹⁸ **(V1:78)**

CHARITY

The practice of charity is highly suggested and encouraged in Islam and the individual is expected to be generous and giving. The following quotes explain the importance of practicing charity:

The Prophet said, “The one who looks after a widow or a poor person (financially) is like...him or her who performs prayers all night and fasts all day.”¹⁹ **(V7:265)** He also said, “Every Muslim has to give in charity,”²⁰ **(V2:524)** and “ Do not withhold you money,”²¹ **(V3:764)** and “feed the hungry.”²² **(V4:282)**

The Prophet was once asked by his followers as to what sort of deeds in Islam are good and he replied “to feed the poor.”²³ **(V1:11)** In addition, he said, “You should start first to support your dependents.”²⁴ **(V7:268)** In other words ‘charity begins at home.’

CIRCUMCISION

Muslim males are circumcised usually by the seventh day or in the early weeks after birth as it is less painful and memorable when circumcised as a baby, or they can be circumcised later on in infancy. This is in the tradition of the Jews who are instructed to be circumcised in the Torah and the teachings of the Holy Bible to be circumcised.

²⁵ **(Genesis 17:13)**

COMMANDMENTS

All Prophets taught their followers to believe in Allah and follow the instructions from God given to them, and Muslims include the commandments of Moses (pbuh) [in brackets below] in the teachings of Islam such as the following: ²⁶ **(V1:17)**:

1. Believe in the one God Allah, (LORD, NO OTHER GODS, NO IDOLS, WRONGFUL USE OF NAME)
2. Not to steal, (STEAL)
3. Not to commit fornication or adultery (illegal sexual intercourse), (ADULTERY)
4. Not to kill your children, (MURDER)
5. Not to accuse an innocent person, (FALSE WITNESS)
6. Not to be disobedient when ordered to a good deed.

D

DAJJAL (ANTI-CHRIST)

The Muslim term for the Anti-Christ is the Dajjal. He will appear near the end of the world and will appear before the second coming of Jesus (pbuh) Christ.

According to Islam the Anti-Christ will have the Devil's power and will kill a man and then raise him alive to prove he is Divine.²⁷ **(V3:106)**. He will have what appears to be hell with him and what appears to be paradise, but they are the opposite: the hell is paradise and the paradise is hell.²⁸ **(V4:659)** According to Islam the Anti-Christ is blind in one eye and is therefore 'one-eyed.'²⁹ **(V9:241)**.

According to Islam, before he appears there will be three tough years of drought. In the first year there will be a reduction in rainfall followed by a second year of reduced rainfall and finally there will be no rainfall worldwide for an entire year before he appears.³⁰ **(Sahih Al-Jami As-Saghir, no.7875)**

He will reign for just over one year. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "Forty days: one day is as long as a year, one day is as long as a month, and one day is as long as a week. The rest of his days will be as long as your ordinary days."³¹ This is approximately 1 year, 2 months and 13 days on the earth. **(Sahih Muslim, Kitab Al-Fitan, Book 41, hadith no. 7015)**

DEATH

Muslims regard Death as the next stage in Allah's plan for mankind. That is we rest in the grave until the Day of Resurrection when the individual is recreated from the back bone and comes out of the grave to be judged on the Day of Judgement.

Islam teaches that every individual has the opportunity to repent for their sins up to their final breath before death.

Muslims are taught to live a good life of honour and integrity as the first questioning will be in the grave before the Day of Resurrection. According to Islam two angels come to the deceased in the grave and ask a series of questions. ³² **(V2:422)**

(See SOUL also)

DEEN

The term for religion. The deen religion for the Muslims is Islam. The deen for the Jews is Judaism and the deen for the Christians is Christianity etc. According to Islam, all the Prophets (pbut) have followed and propagated the one deen which is Islam.

DIVORCE (TALAQ)

Divorce is permitted in Islam only as a last resort when all other methods and efforts of reconciliation and communication have failed. Of all things in Islam which are permitted, divorce is the most disliked. ³³ **(V3:63)**

There are three scenarios regarding divorce in Islam:

1. *Talaq Raj'i* (Returnable or Reconciliation): if the individual uses the Arabic word '*talaq*' once the couple can get back together within three menstrual periods.

2. *Talaq Baain* (Temporary Separation) has three categories:

A. Symbolic words are used: this is when the word *talaq* is not used but any symbolic words like 'get out' or 'it's over' with the intention of divorce, then divorce is implied.

B. If the individual used the word '*talaq*' once: but did not get back together within three menstrual periods.

C. If the individual used the word '*talaq*' twice.

In all of the above three situations (A-C), the *talaq* is known as *baain* and they will have to perform *Nikah* (marriage ceremony) again if they decide to get back together.

3. *Talaq Mughallazah* (Permanent): if the individual used the word '*talaq*' three times in succession or on three occasions over a lifetime then the couple cannot get back together until she marries someone else and is divorcee or widowed.

E

EID

Eid is the term given to the Muslim Festival or Celebration. There are two Eids annually, one after the end of the Holy month of Ramadan and the second after 2 months and 10 days later, at the end of the annual Hajj (Pilgrimage) rites in Saudi Arabia on the 10th of the Islamic month of Dhul Hajj, the last month of the Islamic calendar. In addition, Muslims also celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) [see MAULID-UN-NABI] and regard it as an Eid day.

On these days the Muslim wears new clothes and attends the local mosque or open ground (in Muslim countries) for a special Eid short prayer after listening to the *Imam's* (Religious Minister) sermon. Muslims return home from the mosque taking a different route following in the tradition of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh).³⁴ **(V2: 102)** Money and gifts are exchanged with loved ones and families visit each other in their homes.

EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia (Mercy Killing) is forbidden in Islam. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “None of you should wish for death because of a calamity (problem) befalling him.”³⁵ **(V7:575)** As far as Islam is concerned Life is a gift from God and we are not allowed to take our own lives. Life is not our property, and we have been entrusted to look after it by God and not waste it or destroy it even if we are suffering from a terminal disease.

F

FAITH

Muslims are taught that faith has (more than) 70 parts or elements. This includes: self respect, modesty, bashfulness, integrity, scruples etc.³⁶ **(V1:8)**

Muslims are taught that, “None of you will have Faith (Iman) till he loves me[Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)] more than his parents, his children and all mankind.”³⁷

(V1:14) This explains why Muslims become emotional over any kind of blasphemous behaviour or action against any of the Prophets and the Prophet of Islam (pbuh). They love their Prophet more than anything else that is dear to them.

FASTING

According to Islam fasting has been part of the tradition of Allah's messengers. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) taught his followers that the Prophet David (pbuh) used to fast half the year, that is on every alternative day. ³⁸ **(V3:195)**

During the month of *Ramadan* Muslims are meant to follow the obligatory fast for one month from well before sunrise to dusk (sunset), dependent on moon sighting. During this period of time they are not permitted to eat or drink, smoke or have sexual relations and are expected to increase their worship by praying and reading the Quran.

It is only obligatory on those adults of sound mind and health who are physically fit to endure the demands of fasting. If one is temporarily ill or falls ill during fasting, then the individual can postpone them to a later date when the individual is able to cope.

A woman who is breastfeeding can postpone the fasting (if it affects her health or the health of her child) until a later date and women on their periods and pregnant women can also postpone fasting to a later date but none are exempt.

It is during this month that the first five verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Allah through the Angel Gabriel .

There are 3 purposes of fasting: to develop the individual's discipline and self control i.e. nourish and strengthen the soul and get closer to God. Muslims are taught that if they fast, all their past sins will be forgiven. ³⁹ **(V1:37)** That is, the slate will be wiped

clean for bad things done in the past. In addition, they are taught that fasting, “will keep his face away from the Hell.”⁴⁰ (V4:93) That is, fasting saves the person from hell.

To encourage prayer and reading the Quran during Ramadan, Muslims are informed that everything they do during this month will gain the sawaab (spiritual blessings) of seventy times that done at any other time of year.

Secondly, fasting helps to achieve empathy with the poorest in society, especially in the third world countries. Empathy can only be achieved when the individual is forced to experience the hardships of the poorest in the world by temporarily abstaining from food and drink experiencing thirst and hunger. Then at the end of the day, at sunset the individual performs a ‘thanksgiving’ prayer to Allah thanking Him for the food and drink that he/she is about to be served with . Then he/she requests Allah to relieve poverty, hardship, thirst and hunger from the all of mankind regardless of race, nationality, religion etc.

Finally, fasting gives the stomach a rest so that the cells can regenerate giving the individual a new stomach lining for the coming year.

However, Muslims were told by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that fasting is not accepted if the tongue is busy in gossip, backbiting, swearing and they are participating in evil deeds.⁴¹ (V3:127) In other words, fasting without having integrity, by lying cheating etc. is a complete waste of time. All that has been achieved is that the individual has gone hungry for nothing.

FATIMAH

The beloved daughter of Muhammad (pbuh) and his first wife Khadijah. Also the wife of the fourth Caliph, Ali (R.A.) the leader of the women of Paradise, the first women to enter Paradise, and from whom the descendants of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) came generation after generation.

FIGHTING

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “if somebody fights then he should avoid (hitting) the face.”⁴² (V3:734). That is, if one is forced to fight then one should avoid hitting the face of the individual. Fighting is never appreciated and it is better to forgive.

FOOD & DRINK

Muslims are not permitted to drink wines, alcohol or spirits because the Quran instructs them to avoid intoxicants (See ALCOHOL above). They are forbidden from eating the flesh of the pig which includes: bacon, pork, ham, spam, gammon etc.

In addition, they are not permitted to eat the flesh of dead animals that have not been slaughtered i.e. not blessed with Allah's name (i.e. not halal), drink or taste blood, all wild animals, strangled animals, birds of prey, rodents, reptiles, flesh of animals sacrificed to idols and all meat which is not *halal* (legally slaughtered in accordance with sharia law). ⁴³ **(Q5:3)**

Therefore, they can eat the food served in restaurants provided it is halal or vegetarian and prepared in accordance with Muslim Sharia law. That is, they can go to restaurants that serve food which complies with their requirements, this includes French, Italian, Spanish, Mexican, Thai, Chinese etc. food.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) taught his followers not to be fussy when it came to food but accept what given to them without moaning or complaining. He never criticised any food he was asked to eat but he used to eat it if he liked the food. ⁴⁴ **(V7:320)** He himself used to love sweet edible things and honey. ⁴⁵ **(V7:342)** Muslims are taught to rinse their mouths with water after having eaten a meal. ⁴⁶ **(V7:265)**

FORGIVENESS

Muslims believe forgiveness for our wrong doing is reserved for Allah only. However, on the Day of Judgement those who have hurt someone in this world, such as injury to a person's feelings, assault, attack, marriage break up, killing of

someone's relative, fraud against someone, stealing from someone, gossiping and backbiting about someone etc. must get forgiveness from the injured individual before they are judged and forgiven by Allah. The good deeds of the individual will be transferred to the injured person from the guilty person as compensation for hurting them in any way or form. Forgiveness is a positive action and is recorded as such in the book of deeds.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh), when he returned from exile in Madina to Makkah forgave all those who hated him and tried to kill him when he was resident in Makkah, even the women who ate the liver of his murdered and mutilated dearest uncle Hamza.

FORNICATION

Fornication, sex before marriage is forbidden in Islam and the punishment according to Islam is one hundred lashes for the unmarried person. ⁴⁷ **(V3:817)** As far as Islam is concerned sex should only happen inside a marriage, otherwise sex will be carried out without responsibility and love.

FREE WILL

Muslims believe Allah has given mankind the free will with the power of action by doing good or evil. Mankind has been given intellectual reason, consciousness, empathy and humanity amongst other human characteristics unlike the animal kingdom. This gift of reasoning allows the individual to determine his/her own destiny in life by the individual's actions and behaviour. In Islam the individual is responsible for his or her own decisions and actions. After the age of puberty the Muslim is deemed capable of distinguishing between right and wrong after being raised and guided by his or her parents.

G

GABRIEL (JIBREEL)

Muslims believe in the angel Gabriel who was sent by Allah to communicate with Muhammad (pbuh). According to Islam the Angel Gabriel used to meet the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) every night of Ramadan to read the Quran to each other.⁴⁸ **(V1:5)** and according to Islam Gabriel has 600 wings.⁴⁹ **(V4:455)**

GAMBLING

Gambling is forbidden in Islam, it is *haram*. This includes all games of chance and prediction such as lotteries, poker and all casino games.

GHUSL

This is the term for bathing or washing in accordance with the teachings of Islam. It becomes obligatory after sexual intercourse, or discharge of sexual fluids, or after the end of the female periods and 40 days after child birth. (Parturition or Nifas). In addition, the *ghusl* is recommended and Sunnah before the Friday (Jumu'a) prayer and both Eid prayers and before entering the Mosque where the Kabah (House of Allah) is in Makkah in Saudi Arabia,

GOG (and MAGOG)

According to Islam before the end of the world the nations of Gog and Magog will appear amongst mankind. Gog and Magog are small human beings (Hobbits, or Dwarfs) with fangs and eat human beings, they are cannibals. The entire story relating to them is mentioned in the Quran. ⁵⁰ **(Q18:83-98)**

The Persian King of the times travelled throughout the area and once north or east of Persia (Iran) a tribe of people complained to him about the tribes of Yajooj (Gog) and Majooj (Magog) which often emerged from behind two huge mountains to carry out mischief such as stealing or destroying crops, eating livestock and animals.

He then set about putting up a high barrier made of molten copper and iron between the two mountains to basically seal them in behind it. The exact length, height, thickness and location of this barrier is unknown to anyone. If true, it would be somewhere north of Iran from the west coast of Russia to the east coast near Mongolia.

According to Islam, these hobbits or dwarfs attempt to dig through the barrier every day but when they return the next day the wall is restored back to its original state by Allah. Apparently this process has been continuing for centuries or Millenniums.

Only at the appointed time will they break through the barrier by Allah's will and appear amongst mankind. This time is during the end period of mankind and during the reign of Jesus (pbuh), that is Jesus (pbuh) will be here when they are set free.

Muslims are taught that when they break out they will still be performing Hajj. ⁵¹

(V2:663) Eventually, a spot will appear on their neck and they will die and then large birds will remove their bodies and dump them in the sea or ocean. ⁵²

(Sahih Muslim, Kitab Al-Fitan, Book 41, hadith no. 7015 and 7016)

GOLD

Muslim men are forbidden from wearing gold rings and all gold ornaments. ⁵³ (V7:104)

GOSSIPING

Gossiping and backbiting is forbidden in Islam. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Do not listen to the evil talk of people about others affairs’.” ⁵⁴ (V7:74)

H

HADITH (see also BUKHARI)

Pronounced (ha-deece) this is the term which refers to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), that is, what he said, did and approved.

These *ahadith* (plural) were recorded by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)’s companions and compiled by his family members. The most famous and authentic

and agreed upon collections of hadith are six in number known collectively as *Sahaah Sitta*. They are:

1. Sahih Al-Bukhari
2. Sahih Muslim
3. Sunan Al-Tirmizi
4. Sunan Abu Dawood
5. Sunan Nisaai
6. Sunan Ibn Majah

Sahih Al-Bukhari and *Sahih Muslim* are named after Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, the persons who compiled them and are the most widely known and accepted. They are accepted worldwide and *Sahih Al-Bukhari* is ranked only second to the Holy Quran as the most important book in Islam.

In addition, there are other famous books: Muwatta Imam Malik, Al-Mustadrak Imam Hakim, Musnad Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, Musannaf Abdul Razzak and Mishkat Al-Masaabih.

HAFIZ

The *Hafiz* is the individual who has memorised the entire Quran by heart, being able to recite it in Arabic. He may also be an *Imam* and leads congregation in prayer

during the special prayer called *Salaat-ul-Taraweeh* during the *Isha* (Night Prayer) in the Holy month of *Ramadan*. Each night the Hafiz will complete a section of the Quran in the prayer completing it before the end of the month. (It takes 15 to 30 hours to complete an entire reading of the Quran depending on ability and mother tongue). The presence of the Hafiz in the Muslim community is one of the ways of preserving the Quran for future generations to come.

HAJJ

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and is compulsory upon the individual at least once in a lifetime, dependent on good health and financial circumstances. It involves a physical journey to the Holy Land in Saudi Arabia.

It is a ceremony of love, devotion and commitment to Allah, with the opportunity for the individual to reflect on the purpose of life. In addition, it is an occasion to celebrate the global diversity of Islam when people from all corners of the globe arrive in Makkah and Madina.

On arrival in Makkah the individual has to perform the *Umrah* first (see later). Later on the 8th of the Islamic month [Dhul Hajj (18 December 2007)] the male first puts on the *Ihram* again consisting of two large white cotton sheets (one for the upper half of the body and the other for the lower part). Women in Ihram are in their normal clothes preferably white with a scarf covering the hair.

On the morning of the first day (8th of the Islamic month Dhul hajj) , the *Hajji* (pilgrim) heads off for a place three miles outside Makkah called Mina. He/she stays in tents all day and night, performing the obligatory daily prayers. On the second day (9th) the *Hajji* proceeds to Arafat, eight miles from Mina, and stays in tents for the afternoon then later in the evening after sunset proceeds to Muzdalifa, five miles from Arafat on the way back to Makkah, for an overnight stay in the open and collecting pebbles for the ritual stoning (*Rami Jamarat*) over the next three days.

On the morning of day three (10th) *Hajji* heads back to Mina for the *Rami* - stoning of the biggest pillar of three (representing the devil), using seven stones. This ritual known as the *Rami* signifies casting out *shaytan* (satan) from the individuals' lives, minds and thoughts by symbolically stoning the pillars.

This is followed by a sacrifice of goat or sheep or any *halal* animal such as cow or camel, having the head shaven and changing into ordinary clothes. Then on the same day the pilgrim heads back to Makkah to perform *Tawaf Al Ziyarah* [7 circuits around the Kabah (House of Allah- represented by the Black square building)] returning to Mina in the evening.

The pilgrim stays in Mina in the tents for the next two or three days performing the daily prayers in congregation in the tents. During this two or three day stay, they have to perform stoning of all three pillars on each day using seven stones for each pillar (twenty one stones each day). Finally the pilgrim returns to Makkah to perform a final *Tawaf* called *Tawaf Al Wadah*.

Thereafter, the pilgrim leaves for Madina, the resting place of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (pbuh) to pay his/her respects, if not done so before Hajj.

Muslims are taught that after successful completion of Hajj they return home as sinless as a new born baby entering the world. ⁵⁵ (V3:45) That is, the slate has been wiped clean for them and they should lead good lives to prevent their sins from building up again.

HALAL

The term *halal* signifies all that is permitted or allowed in Islam, i.e. that which is legitimate in accordance with sharia law or what the Prophet taught his followers. For example *halal* meat is slaughtered and blessed in accordance with the rules of Islam and any food or thing which is not *halal* is not permitted for consumption.

HARAM

Haram is the opposite of *halal* and is all items, actions and behaviour not allowed in Islam. This would include: drinking alcohol, eating pork, consuming interest (usury), fornication, adultery, homosexuality, stealing, lying, cheating, fraud, corruption, and suicide (see later) and injury to feelings amongst others.

HEALTH

Muslims were informed by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that, “Your body has a right on you.”⁵⁶ **(V3:196)**. That is, respect your body and it will respect you or respect your stomach and it will respect you. Muslims are taught they are responsible for their health and no else is going to look after them.

HELL

Muslims believe in the existence of Hell. Islam teaches Muslims that Hell is the final place of punishment for bad deeds done in this world. That is, we are responsible for our own hellfire because of our actions. Hell is the final place for punishment for all bad deeds done in this life. The Muslim view or interpretation of Hell is one of a place of extremely hot fire, torture, pain, anguish and agony. Hell is a place for the ‘arrogant and the tyrants,’⁵⁷ **(V6:373)** and “all those violent, arrogant and stubborn people.”⁵⁸ **(V6:440)** Muslims are taught that the heat in this world is nothing compared to the heat of hell. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Your ordinary fire is one seventy parts [i.e. one seventieth (1/70)] of the Hell Fire.”⁵⁹ **(V4:487)** Imagine if the Australian bush fires reached a temperature of 1000°C, then the fires of hell would be 70,000 °C. A very uncomfortable place indeed. However, they are taught that the individual who has belief in Allah and has an atom’s weight of faith in his or her heart will eventually leave Hell for Heaven after paying a penalty for all bad deeds done in this world.⁶⁰ **(V1:42)**

According to the English translation of the Arabic Scriptures known as Sahih Al-Bukhari by the team of scholars at Madina University in Saudi Arabia, the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Allah has forbidden the Hell Fire for those who say, ‘none has the right to be worshipped but Allah’” with a true heart. ⁶¹ (V1: 417)

At the bottom of hell there is apparently a bitter pungent tree, which the inhabitants eat from it when hungry. ⁶² (V6:240)

HIJAB

The Hijab is the term for the veil. Muslim women are supposed to have their hair and body properly covered. The face, hands and feet do not need to be covered. There is difference of opinion amongst the Muslims as to whether the face should be completely covered and some women choose to do so.

HIJRA

The Hijra or migration journey of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) from Makkah to Madina in Saudi Arabia marked the start of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar started from 622 A.D. For example, the year 2007 is 1428 in Islam. There is a slight

difference in calculations because the Islamic year is shorter than the traditional 365 days by 10 days.

HOMOSEXUALITY (See SODOMY also)

Homosexuality i.e. all male and female gay (lesbian) relationships or same sex relationships are *haram* (see above) in Islam, that is, they are not permitted.

HUMANITY

Humanity is consideration for fellow human beings regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, background, region, stature, and status etc.

The Prophet said: ‘Helping a person to mount his animal, or to load his baggage on to it is humanity. A kind word is humanity...The removal of something causing an inconvenience from a street is humanity.’ That is to say, that consideration of a fellow human being, regardless of background is an essential requirement to be a Muslim.

The Prophet further said that the individual, ‘...should either utter good words or better keep silent, ... and he should treat his neighbour with kindness and he ... should show hospitality to his guest.’⁶³ **(V1:75)** That is, if you have nothing positive

or constructive to say keep quiet. Putting down people or making negative comments is disliked or inappropriate in Islam.

HYPOCRITES

The definition of a hypocrite according to Islam is; whoever has the following four characteristics will be a true hypocrite and whoever has one of the following four characteristics, will have one characteristic of hypocrisy unless and until he gives it up. The dishonest or the untrustworthy, the person who tells a lie i.e. the liar, the one who breaks a promise (treacherous) and the one who when he argues he behaves in a very imprudent, evil and insulting manner (ill-mannered).⁶⁴ **(V1:33)**

I

IMAM & the FOUR IMAMS

This is the term for the religious leader of the mosque. He is usually responsible for leading the prayers in congregation and delivers the *Jumu'a* (Friday Prayer) sermon to the congregation. In addition, his role includes teaching children how to read Arabic

enabling them to read the Quran, providing guidance on Islamic matters, organising funeral arrangements, leading the funeral prayer as well as carrying out wedding ceremonies and the Azaan for new born babies. Generally speaking he is responsible for fulfilling all basic religious needs of the Muslim community.

(FOUR) IMAMS

Around the eight to ninth century A.D. four different Jurists or legal experts set about establishing Islam in law. They included: Imam Malik (710-795), Imam Shafi (767-820), Imam Abu Hanifa (700-767) and Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (780-855). Basically they tried to interpret Quran and Sunnah [traditions of the Prophet (pbuh)] in their own particular way, which the Muslims still follow today.

Those in north Africa (Algeria, Libya), central Africa (Nigeria, Chad, Niger) follow the rulings of Imam Malik, those in Asia, India sub-continent, Iraq, Syria, Turkey follow Imam Abu Hanifa and the majority of Muslims follow this school of thought. Those in Egypt, south east Asia (Malaysia and Indonesia), south of Arabia (Yemen) and east Africa (Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia) follow Imam Shafi and finally those in Saudi Arabia follow Imam Hanbal.

IMAN (See BELIEF above)

This is another term for faith or belief. The more religious the individual, and steadfast in practice following all the orders of Allah according to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), then the individual is said to have strong *Iman*.

INTERCESSION

This is a special privilege awarded to the Prophets, Saints and Pious people of Islam by which they will be able to request Allah for forgiveness of sinful Muslims according to their spiritual standing in Islam. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "I have been given the right of intercession on the Day of Resurrection." ⁶⁵ **(V1:331)** Muslims believe that the disobedient Muslims will spend time in Hell, but because of the Prophet's intercession they will be allowed out of hell into Paradise after serving time for their major and minor sins.

I'TIKAAF

Staying in the mosque in seclusion during last nine or ten days of the month of Ramadan with certain restrictions is known as *Itikaaf*. The individual follows this tradition of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and focuses on his prayers and worship in order

to achieve a higher spiritual state. *Itikaaf* is recommended at least once in a lifetime for the individual.

ISTIKHARA

Muslims are taught they can seek guidance from Allah by performing a special prayer known as the *Istikhara* prayer for certain issues or problems. This is a prayer for seeking guidance from Allah on what to do on a particular issue such as a potential partner for marriage, a new job, new business or moving city, etc. It is a solve my dilemma prayer. The individual usually apparently receives a direct indication from Allah Himself in one's dream. If anything green or white is seen then this is a green light to go ahead and if anything red or black is seen in the dream then this is a warning not to proceed with the course of action. ⁶⁶ (V2:263) And if nothing is seen then the individual should follow his or her heart.

J

JANAZAH

This is the term for the Muslim Funeral. The individual that dies first has his or her body washed (*Ghusl*). Men wash the deceased male and women wash the deceased female's body. The body is wrapped in three white cotton sheets for men and five sheets for women. Then the face of the deceased is shown whilst lying in the coffin. Men are not allowed to see a deceased female's face apart from permitted male relatives.

The deceased is usually buried in the Muslim section of the cemetery with the face towards the Kabah (House of Allah) in Makkah in Saudi Arabia. The local religious leader, the Imam carries out a short funeral prayer and then the individual is lowered into the grave.

Some Muslim communities prefer to shovel the earth onto the coffin themselves and this may take up to half an hour or more. Muslims are taught that attendance at a funeral is highly recommended and results in the sawaab (see below) of one Qirat (Mountain Uhud in Arabia) and staying until burial results in two Qirats sawaab.⁶⁷ **(V1:45)** In addition they are taught that if the individual is pious they may be forgiven because the deceased person has led a good life.

Muslims are discouraged from weeping and crying loudly excessively for the deceased. This is because they are taught that this life is a short temporary one. The deceased, if religious has gone onto a better place and will rest there until the Day of Judgement.

They are informed that crying and weeping causes stress for the deceased's soul. ⁶⁸ **(V2:377)** Instead they are encouraged to pray for the deceased's soul.

After the funeral, the mourning period lasts three days. ⁶⁹ **(V7:253)** Relatives and friends of the deceased along with members of the community visit the main relatives and pay their respect and give their condolences and pray for the deceased's soul.

JERUSALEM

When the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) migrated to Madina the Muslims used to face Jerusalem to pray for the first 16 months, until at a later date the Divine order came to face the Kabah (House of Allah) in Makkah in Saudi Arabia. ⁷⁰ **(V1:39)** Therefore, Jerusalem is important to Muslims because it was the original direction for prayers.

According to Islam, it is here in Jerusalem that the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) made a stop over on his night journey (see Miraj below) and led 124,000 (more or less) Prophets of Islam in prayer including Noah (pbuh), Moses (pbuh) Abraham (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh). After the prayer was completed he resumed his journey towards the heavens for a meeting with Allah. ⁷¹ **(V4:429)**

After the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 it remained in Muslim hands until the six Day War in 1967 when it was captured into the hands of Israel and remains in control of Israel to date.

Muslims believe that near the end of the world the middle east will be the focus of the world when Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and Imam Mahdi [descendent of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)] together battle the Anti-Christ.

JESUS [ISA] (PBUH)

Muslims believe in Jesus (pbuh) as a Prophet of Allah. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) described him as, “A man of medium height and moderate complexion inclined to the red and white colours and of straight hair.” ⁷² (V4:462) That is, “red-faced as if he had just come out of the bathroom.” ⁷³ (V4:647) Muslims reject the Trinity, that he is Son of God or God incarnate (physical God). They accept the virgin birth of Mary but there is no Joseph, and reject the Crucifixion and accept that he was taken up to heaven.

According to Islam he will return again and therefore the Muslims agree with the Christians in the second coming of Jesus (pbuh) Christ. However, the main difference is that they believe that he “will break the Cross.” ⁷⁴ (V3:425) That is, he (pbuh) will confirm he is a Prophet of Allah, Muhammad (pbuh) was the final Prophet. According to the Quran Jesus (pbuh) will deny he said he was son of God or God. ⁷⁵ (Q5:116-117) Then he will persuade the Christian leaders to accept Islam.

He will descend from heaven to earth with his hands on the wings of two angels, pray behind the Mahdi (see below), then pursue the Anti-Christ and destroy him. ⁷⁶ (*Sahih Muslim, Kitab Al-Fitan, Book 41, hadith no.7015*) After this event the lost nations of

Gog and Magog will appear amongst mankind and Jesus (pbuh) will take his followers up a mountain and pray for removal of this problem. ⁷⁷ (*Sahih Muslim, Kitab Al-Fitan, Book 41, hadith no. 7015 and 7016*)

Then he will get married and have children and reign for forty years on the earth providing peace and security. ⁷⁸ (*Abu Dawood, Sahih Sunan Abu Dawood no. 3635*)

During this period all war will cease. ⁷⁹ (*Sahih Al-Jami As-Saghir no. 7875*) He will die and be buried in Madina in Saudi Arabia in his empty place reserved for him, next to the Prophet of Islam (pbuh).

JEWELERY

Muslim men are forbidden from wearing gold rings ⁸⁰ (**V2:331**) and all kinds of jewellery including silver with the exception of wearing the silver ring which is the tradition of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

JEWS

According to Islam, the Muslims and the Jews are cousins. Abu Huraira the companion of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “That Hajar (Abraham’s wife) was your mother (i.e. of the Arabs) the descendants of Ishmael, Hajar’s son.” ⁸¹ (**V4:578**)

Jews and Muslims have a lot in common. They both believe in Prophet Moses (pbuh) and accept all the Prophets up to Moses (pbuh). Muslims accept the Torah as Divine Book but disagree with Jews for not accepting Jesus (pbuh) and Muhammad (pbuh). Men in both religions are circumcised. The Jews have their Sabbath on late Friday evening into Saturday and the Muslim holy day is Friday. Marriage is encouraged, homosexuality is discouraged in both religions, and both groups don't eat the meat of the pig such as bacon etc.

JIHAD

The literal meaning of *Jihad* is to struggle. There are several types of Jihad for Muslims living any where in the world. The biggest and highest ranking Jihad is the Jihad of resisting one's false and evil desires, that is, resisting the temptation to be promiscuous, drink alcohol, stealing, trying drugs, committing adultery etc. (*Jihad Bi Al Nafs*)

Jihad Bi Al Nafs includes the practice of one's religion to the best of one's ability. That is perform the five daily prayers without being distracted, to fast and pay zakat (charity) and to stay focused on leading a good peaceful life with integrity.

Integrity means earning an honest living to support one's family. For example, I met a waiter in Hilton Hotel in Madina who left his wife and new born son in Pakistan to earn

a living for his family, returning to see them only once a year. This is just one example of the greatest Jihads a person can make in his or her life.

Next, there is the Jihad by the pen, educating and informing others of the religion whether by literature, published articles, internet websites or Islamic Channels in the media. (*Jihad Bi Al Qalam*)

After this, is the Jihad of spending ones monies on good causes such as charity and humanitarian relief. (*Jihad Bi Al Maal*)

Finally, there is the *Jihad* of self defence against your oppressor or foreign invader whose intention is that of committing genocide against your fellow citizens, Islam- under these circumstances permits the nation the right to self defence and fight back just as you can fight an intruder in your home. (*Jihad Bi Al Saif*)

JINN

Muslims believe in the existence of Jinn. According to Islam these are creations of Allah from the smoke of the fire before the creation of the first human Adam. They are invisible to us but can be present amongst us. They can see us but we can't see them.

They are not ghosts of dead people or dead spirits but living creation who lead lives similar to ours; with birth, marriage, having children and death. According to Islam they survive on bones and animal dung ⁸² (V5:200) and they live in uninhabited places such as derelict buildings, graveyards, toilets and rubbish dumps. There are Non-Muslim and Muslim Jinn. They will be held accountable for their actions on the Day of Judgement like human beings. Satan or Iblis is the most famous Jinn in Islam.

JUDGEMENT DAY

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “You will be gathered barefooted, naked and uncircumcised.” ⁸³ (V4:568) Muslims believe in the Day of Judgement when all actions and behaviour of the individual is presented by the recording angels present with the person during his/her life. These books of deeds represent the good, bad and evil an individual has done during the lifetime. The left angel is responsible for recording the negative events (sins) and the right angel for recording good events (prayer, charity, humanity etc).

The books are placed on the corresponding side of the *Meezaan* (Scale) and weighed. If the person’s bad deeds outweigh the good deeds the scales will lower towards the left and similarly tilt to the right if the good deeds are heavier. Based on the outcome of the scales, the person is destined to hell or heaven.

Muslims were told by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that they would see their Lord on the Day of Judgement. He said, “You will have no difficulty on seeing Allah on the Day of Resurrection.” ⁸⁴ **(V6:105)**

JUMU’A

This is the Friday prayer held in the mosque and the most important of the week. Muslims are ordered to attend the prayer because they have been informed that their sins between the last Friday and the present Friday will be forgiven. ⁸⁵ **(V2:8)**

Muslims are supposed to wear their best clothes and wear colognes when attending. The Jumu’a prayer must be read in congregation and can’t be read at home for men. Women can read the Jumu’a prayer in the Mosque in a different area from the men or in gatherings at home. Muslims attend the Jumu’a prayer in large numbers compared to the other five daily prayers because of busy lives.

Jumu’a is an opportunity to meet members of the community and the Imam makes announcements about community affairs such as funerals. In addition, collections are made for charity, good causes and disaster victims.

K

KABAH (HOUSE OF ALLAH)

The *Kabah (House of Allah)* is the black square building in the Mosque (Masjid Al-Haram) in Makkah, which is seen on television. This is the House of Allah for Muslims. Its history goes far back to the days of the Prophet Abraham and the Muslims believe it is the first place of worship of the One God since time began. The Kabah (House of Allah) was rebuilt by the Quraish Arabs and they decreased the size from its original foundation laid by Abraham.⁸⁶ **(V2:653)** The incomplete area is known as the *Hateem* which was originally part of the Kabah.

After migration (Hijra) to Madina the Muslims used to face Jerusalem for their prayers until they were ordered to pray towards the Kabah (House of Allah) in Makkah in Saudi Arabia.⁸⁷ **(V1:397)**

According to Islam the Kabah (House of Allah) will be destroyed in the future. It will be destroyed by an Ethiopian who “will demolish the Kabah (House of Allah).”⁸⁸ **(V2:661)** Sometime after this event, this will be followed by the end of the world.

KAUTHAR (pronounced KAUSAR)

This is a pond in Paradise. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “It is a cistern (reservoir) and my people would come to it on the Day of Resurrection, and tumblers there would be equal to the number of stars.”⁸⁹ (Sahih Muslim: Book 004, Number 0790) That is, the true followers of Islam will be given drinks from this reservoir and it will provide relief from the hardships and thirst on the Day of Judgement.

KHUTBA

This is the term for the sermon or speech by the Imam or Religious Leader on Friday before the Jumu’a Prayer and after the Eid prayers.

KILLING

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Avoid the seven great destructive sins,” his followers enquired what they were and he replied listing them all including to “kill the life.”⁹⁰ (V4: 28) That is, avoid killing.

Muslims are taught that if Muslims meet to fight each other both the murderer and the murdered will go to hell.⁹¹ (V1:30) According to the English translation of the

Arabic Scriptures known as Sahih Al-Bukhari by the team of scholars at Madina University in Saudi Arabia, if a Muslim murders another Muslim then his punishment is to dwell in hell forever. ⁹² **(V5:194)** The reality is that Muslims ignore these instructions and do what they want to do, to achieve what they have to achieve. They regard other Muslims as being in the wrong group and therefore find it easy to kill other Muslims.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) disapproved the “killing of women and children.” ⁹³ **(V4:257)** The rules of engagement were clearly laid down by the Prophet. The overwhelming majority of Muslims believe that Muslim suicide bombers who deliberately target civilian women and children anywhere in the world have been misled by criminal elements.

Regarding Non-Muslims staying in Muslim countries they are supposed to be under the protection of the Muslim government. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Whoever killed a Mu’ahid (protected Non-Muslim) shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise.” ⁹⁴ **(V9:49)** That is, the individual will go to hell. Muslim countries will be held responsible for ignoring the teachings of the Prophet (pbuh) to ensure the protection of all citizens belonging to any religion living under their rule.

L

LAILATUL BARAAT

Lailatul Baraat is the Night of Salvation and is on the 15th night of the Holy month of Shabaan. According to Islam on this special night Allah opens 300 doors of His Mercy and Blessings for the Muslims. The individual prays to Allah on this night and asks for three things, forgiveness for past sins and mistakes, extension to life and increased sustenance or earnings for the coming year.

Regarding forgiveness it is a chance to repent and have the slate wiped clean, give up the bad ways and commence a new way of life, a good life free from sins and evil. All that is required of the individual is to pray and make a promise to Allah not to go back to the old ways.

According to Islam this is the night when the lists of those who are going to be born and die for the coming year is made, with the death list being passed on to the Angel of Death Izra'eel who is responsible for taking the soul out of the body. In addition, all affairs for the coming year: health, sustenance, earnings, and all events affecting the individual are passed on to responsible angels for managing these issues.

LAILATUL QADR (NIGHT OF POWER)

This is one of the special and powerful nights in Islam when an individual can pray, read Quran and do worship and gain the sawaab (spiritual blessings) of the equivalent of 1000 months or over 83 years of effort for just one night's worship.

This is the day the very first verse of the Quran was revealed to mankind. It is found in the last ten days of Ramadan on the odd nights, that is 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th or 29th of Ramadan. ⁹⁵ **(V1:46)** The word Lailatul Qadr appears three times in the chapter in the Quran. The consensus amongst the scholars is that it is on the 27th night because each word is made up of nine Arabic letters. (nine letters multiplied by three words equals 27th night)

LIFE

According to Islam life begins after 120 days or after 4 months in the womb. When Allah sends an angel after 120 days to write 4 words: The angel writes (stamps the forehead) (1) the individual's deeds during his/her life, (2) the time of death, (3) the means of livelihood, and (4) whether the person is going to hell or heaven (which can be changed in this life through our actions) Then the soul is breathed into the foetus and life commences. ⁹⁶ **(V4:549)**

Muslims are taught to be patient on the journey of life towards death and then the beginning of everlasting life. This worldly life is one of test and trials to test our character and how we respond to what life throws at us.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Everyone will do the deeds for which he has been created to do...”⁹⁷ **(V8:595)** In other words, when our time is up to leave this world we will have done what it was we were sent for, whether we know about it or not. Every individual has a connection in some way to others on the planet without knowledge. For example if we part with cash for victims of disasters there is a connection there.

The Prophet of Islam said, “No calamity (disaster, misfortune, tragedy) befalls a Muslim but that Allah expiates some of his sins because of it.”⁹⁸ **(V7:544)** In other words Muslims are taught that if they are suffering e.g. with illness they will get redemption on the other side for their patience through the difficult times.

In addition, the Prophet said, “If Allah wants to do good to someone then he tests him with trials.” In other words getting to Paradise is tough and has to be through test of character, personality, perseverance. Furthermore he said, “...Allah loves that one should be kind and lenient in all matters.”⁹⁹ **(V8:53)** Muslims are taught to stay cool.

He also said, regarding Muslims, “do not be jealous of one another, ...do not hate one another...”¹⁰⁰ **(V8:90)** Muslims are taught not to have a ‘Keeping up with the Jones’s mentality’, but to be grateful for one’s circumstances as there are less fortunate people in the world. The Prophet said, “If anyone of you looked at a person who was made

superior (in wealth) to him: then he should also look at the one who is inferior to himself, and to whom he has been made superior.”¹⁰¹ (V8:497) In other words look at the less fortunate.

Finally, he said, “The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger.”¹⁰² (V8:135) So many people lose it today and kill or hurt people when in anger, the Islamic response is to stay cool and not lose the temper because the temper is one of the negative characteristics from the Satan.

Muslim mothers are informed to be patient if they have lost children during childbirth or when they are older in childhood, as on The Day of Judgement the children will shield their mother from the Hell Fire.¹⁰³ (V1:101)

M

MAGIC (SORCERY)

Black magic, voodoo, ouiji boards and all other forms of magic are *haram* (forbidden) in Islam. The aim of sorcery or black magic in Islam is to cause harm or misfortune to

another individual The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “avoid the seven great destructive sins,” his followers enquired what they were and he replied listing them all including to, “practice sorcery.”¹⁰⁴ **(V4:28)** In addition, he said, “They (the fortune tellers) are nothing (i.e. are liars).”¹⁰⁵ **(V8:232)** Muslims who practice sorcery or those who turn to them for help with things are participating in a major sin in Islam.

MAHDI

Muslims believe that Imam Mahdi will appear when there is the greatest conflict for mankind near the end of the world. They believe that Imam Mahdi will be leading a congregational prayer when Jesus (pbuh) returns, and together they will battle the Anti-Christ.¹⁰⁶ **(Sahih Muslim, Kitab Al-Fitan, Book 41, hadith no. 6924)**

MARRIAGE

Marriage is encouraged in Islam because it prevents the individual committing fornication or being promiscuous. Marriage is one of the most important Sunnah (traditions) of the Prophet (pbuh) The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Young people, whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and his modesty.”¹⁰⁷ **(V7:4)**

Forced marriages are forbidden in Islam. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) annulled a marriage because a woman came to him and claimed that her father gave her in marriage and she disliked that marriage.¹⁰⁸ **(V9:78)** Meaning she was not happy with her father's choice of husband for her. The Prophet's wife Aisha asked him, "Should the women be asked for their consent to their marriage?" He replied, "Yes."¹⁰⁹ **(V9:79)** Arranged marriages are only permissible in Islam if both the man and woman agree to the marriage.

MARTYR

A very misunderstood word by both Muslims and Non-Muslims. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) clearly stated what type of person can be labelled as a martyr. He said, "Whoever is killed protecting and defending his property (and himself from an aggressor) then he is a martyr."¹¹⁰ **(V3:660)**

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) (pbuh) said, " Five are martyrs:

1. One who dies of a plague,
2. One who dies of an abdominal disease, e.g. stomach cancer,
3. One who dies by accident, e.g. drowning,
4. One who is buried alive, e.g. earthquake victims.
5. One who is killed in Allah's cause.¹¹¹ **(V1:624)** [See SELF SACRIFICE]

MARY [MARYAM]

Mary is the Mother of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and is held in high esteem in Islam. One full chapter of the Quran has been named after her. Muslims accept the virgin birth of Jesus (pbuh) and believe there was no Joseph as in the traditional Christian teachings.

MEDICINE

Today Muslims still follow the teachings of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) in using traditional natural remedies as cure to ailments. In 7th century Arabia there were no pills as such and the community had to rely on what was available. The Prophet (pbuh) taught his followers the merits of taking honey.¹¹² **(V7:584)** According to the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) the black cumin seed is a cure for all diseases (except death).¹¹³ **(V7:591)** It is Sunnah to get treatment with any form of medicine.

MADINA

After Makkah, Madina is the holiest place for the Muslims from where the message of Islam was spread all over the world. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) migrated to Madina after 13 years spent in Makkah after declaring his Prophethood due to persecution by the pagan Arabs. It is here he is buried and his grave is in the Prophet's Mosque in the

city. Alongside him is the first and second Caliphs Abu Bakr Sidique and Umar bin Khattab, both his companions. In addition, there is a reserved place for Jesus Christ (pbuh) beside the Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) grave. Muslims believe Jesus (pbuh) will return, marry, have children and then be buried in Madina after he dies. [See JESUS (PBUH)]

According to Islam the Anti-Christ will not be able to enter Madina as it is guarded by fourteen angels, two on each gate. ¹¹⁴ (V3:103) Muslims also believe that Madina will suffer three tremors or earth quakes when the Anti-Christ has appeared. ¹¹⁵ (V3:105)

MEEZAAN (SCALE)

The Meezaan is the scale used on the Day of Judgement. The book representing the individual's good deeds is placed on one side of the scale and the book representing the individual's bad deeds is placed on the other side of the scale. If the good deed book is heavier the person has been successful and will go to Paradise and if the bad deed book is heavier then the person will go to hell. If the deeds are equally balanced the person will go to a 'half way house or place' called Al-A-Raaf, between heaven and hell but eventually will go to heaven after some time, after asking for forgiveness.

MAULID-UN-NABI

Maulad-un-Nabi is the term for the birthday celebration of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (pbuh) who was born on a Monday. Its purpose is to celebrate and remember his life and remember what he taught the Muslims and what he gave them including the Quran, the example of his life and knowledge of the afterlife, heaven and hell. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “None of you will have Faith (Iman) till he loves me more than his parents, his children and all mankind.” ¹¹⁶ **(V1:14)** Special gatherings take place in mosques and homes around the world to pray, read the Quran and send prayers upon him.

MIRAJ (NIGHT JOURNEY)

Miraj is the term for the night ascension that is the night journey of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) in physical body and soul into the heavens for a meeting in Allah’s presence. The Prophet mounted a winged horse known as a *burraq* which was light, and travelled many times faster than the speed of light and he was accompanied by The Angel Gabriel.

According to Islam the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) met the Prophet Adam (pbuh) in the first heaven followed by the Prophet Isa (Jesus) (pbuh) and Prophet Yahya (John) (pbuh) in the second heaven. In the third heaven he met the Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) and in the fourth heaven met the Prophet Idris (Enoch). Next he met the Prophet Harun

(Aaron) in the fifth and the Prophet Musa (Moses) (pbuh) in the sixth heaven. Finally, in the seventh heaven he met the Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) (pbuh).

Allah gave the gift of prayer for Muhammad's (pbuh) followers to read 50 prayers a day and on his return back he met the Prophet Musa (Moses) (pbuh) who advised Muhammad (pbuh) to go back and have them reduced. Each time the prayers were reduced and each time the Prophet Musa (Moses) (pbuh) advised Muhammad (pbuh) to go back because the amount of prayers was too much. Eventually the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) returned to earth with the duty of 5 Prayers on his followers. ¹¹⁷

(V4:429)

MOSES [MUSA] (PBUH)

Muslims believe in Prophet Moses (pbuh) as the true Messenger of Allah who was given the ten commandments from God. Of all Prophets, he is the most mentioned in the Quran, the Muslim Holy book on numerous occasions. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) described Prophet Moses (pbuh) as, "A shy person who used to cover his body because of his extensive shyness." ¹¹⁸ **(V4:616)** He also described him as "...a tall brown curly haired man." ¹¹⁹ **(V4:462)** The Prophet Moses (pbuh) was given the speciality of talking directly to Allah almighty himself.

MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

Muhammad (pbuh) is the Final Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and Muslims are adamant he is not the founder of Islam as Muslims believe all Messengers from Noah (pbuh), Abraham (pbuh), Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) represented Islam at each stage in history. ¹²⁰ **(Q42:13)** The difference being in that Muhammad's (pbuh) Message was the concluding and final chapter of the Message of Allah to all of mankind as no other message or Prophet was to come after him till the end of life on earth.

Muslims are told in the Quran that he was sent for all of mankind and not just for the Arab Race. ¹²¹ **(Q7:158)**. Muhammad (pbuh) said, “ The earth has been made for me.” ¹²² **(V1:331)** Muslims are taught that if Muhammad (pbuh) was not to be created then the earth and everything else would not have been made including the universe.

He was born in Makkah and was a direct descendant of the Prophet Abraham (pbuh) and was the son of Abdullah. His father died before he was born and his mother Amina died during his early childhood when he was only six. For a short time he was brought up by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib who passed away a few years later. Then his uncle Abu Talib became his guardian.

Before declaring himself as a Prophet at the age of forty, Muhammad (pbuh) was held in high regard by the Arab population of Makkah. He was well respected and trusted and regarded as a man of integrity and honesty.

According to Islam, he received the first message from Allah through Divine Revelation at Mount Hira in Makkah at the age of forty in a cave at the foot of the mountain. He challenged the status quo and told the Arabs to, “worship Allah alone and not worship others (e.g. idols) along with Him.”¹²³ **(V4:191)** In addition, he told the Arabs to abandon all what their parents and ancestors had been worshiping in the past.

After he conveyed his Message against the practice of idol worship, burying new born daughters, he was rejected and persecuted by the Arab Pagans who resisted his teachings. This resulted in the *Hijra* (migration) to Madina, where the residents of the city welcomed him, accepting him and embraced Islam.

Muhammad (pbuh) taught mankind to submit to the instructions of Allah and has been described as the greatest leader in history in TIME magazine issue of July 15 1974. He came as a Prophet for the whole of mankind, a Universal Prophet, and his Message was not directed solely at the Arabs of his time and area, but was for all lands and all nations. His life, experiences, activities, hardships, problems, are regarded as a model or code of conduct for all of mankind, not just Muslims. The Muslims are taught, “the best way is the way of Muhammad (pbuh).”¹²⁴ **(V9:382)**

The Prophet died at the age of sixty three.¹²⁵ **(V4:736)** When Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) died all he left (in his estate) was some money, a white mule, his arms, and a piece of land which he gave to charity.¹²⁶ **(V4:2)** His estate reflected his life. He led a humble and basic life and taught his followers that this life was a temporary life and the individual should prepare him or herself with good deeds (prayer, charity etc) for the

next life. He taught that the pursuit of wealth and materialistic things was a false way to live one's life and all that could help us on the other side was our good deeds, actions and compassion for others.

MUJAHID or MUJAHIDEEN

Unfortunately this term is misunderstood and misinterpreted by Muslims and Non-Muslims equally. A Mujahid is a person who is doing Jihad of any kind. (See JIHAD above)

N

NEW BORN BABY

When a new Muslim baby is born there are certain practices or customs that have to be carried out by the parents according to Islam. Firstly, the Fajr (morning prayer) Azaan

(Muslim call to prayer) is said in the right ear followed by the Iqamat (second call to prayer) in the left ear, to let the soul know it is Muslim and keep Satan at bay.

On the seventh day after birth a sacrifice of an animal is made (*Aqeeqah*). This is followed by the hair of the baby male or female being shaven off completely (carefully) and its weight in silver or the cash equivalent given in charity for the benefit of the poor. Finally, the child is named again on the seventh day with the selection of a good Islamic name with a meaning. Later the baby boy is circumcised after making an appointment as soon as possible through the GP in the UK.

O

ODD NUMBERS

Odd numbers have a special importance in Islam. Here are some examples:

1. One God (Allah), one Prophet, one Quran, one Religion,
2. Knocking on a door three times and waiting for a reply to enter. ¹²⁷ (V1:94)
3. The Prophet during bathing poured water on his head three times. ¹²⁸ (V1:255)
4. The Prophet used to eat odd number of dates. ¹²⁹ (V2: 73)

5. Muslims are taught to take three breaths when drinking water. ¹³⁰ **(V7:535)**
6. The Prophet instructed that his deceased daughter be washed three or five times. ¹³¹
(V2:344)
7. Muslims have to pray five times a day.
8. Seven circuits around the Kabah for Tawaf.
9. Seven lengths (walks) during the Sa'ee during the Hajj pilgrimage.
10. Earth and sky created in seven folds.

P

PARADISE

Muslims believe in the existence of Paradise, which is a place of tranquillity, happiness and where every wish is fulfilled. It is the final place for the rewards of all good deeds done in this life and is veiled or invisible from us. According to Islam if someone dies with belief in Allah he/she will enter Paradise (after punishment in hell) even if the individual committed adultery or theft. ¹³² **(V2:329)**

According to Islam Paradise is a place for the poor people of this world. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "Those who are rich in this world will have little reward in the Hereafter except those who spend their money here and there (i.e. charity) and they

are few in number.”¹³³ **(V3:573)** That is, it is a place for the weak and humble.¹³⁴
(V6:373) To conclude it is a place for the obedient.

The description of Paradise according to the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) is a place where there are gold utensils and no illness.¹³⁵ **(V4:468)**. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “There is a tree in Paradise that if a rider travels in its shade for one hundred years he will not be able to cross it. (That is, get out of the shade)”¹³⁶ **(V4:474)**
[Based on traditional means by horseback at, say, 30 miles a day makes paradise a million miles wide just in the shade of the tree]

Muslims are taught by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh), “Whoever drinks alcoholic drinks in this world and does not repent before dying, will be deprived of it in the Hereafter.”¹³⁷ **(V7:481)**

According to The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) there are four rivers in Paradise. On the Night of Ascension (see MIRAJ) the angel Gabriel informed the Prophet that the two apparent ones are the Nile and the Euphrates.¹³⁸ **(V4:429)** Which apparently suggests that the Middle East rivers are passing through the hidden or veiled Paradise from us.

According to the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) the individual will enter into Paradise the same size as Adam was.¹³⁹ **(V8:246)** According to the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) Adam was sixty cubits tall.¹⁴⁰ **(V4:543)** That is, approximately 90 feet or 30 metres tall i.e. the size of giants.¹⁴¹ **(V8:246)** Therefore, the individual will be this height when entering Paradise.

Muslims are taught, “ Everyone will be with those whom he loves.” ¹⁴² (V8:189)

That is we will meet again those who used to be an important part of our lives like our relatives in this world.

Muslims are taught that the blind person who remains patient will enter Paradise as compensation. ¹⁴³ (V7:557)

PILLARS

Islam is based on five pillars ¹⁴⁴ (V1:7) :

SHAHADA: DECLARATION OF FAITH

1. There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad (pbuh) is the (last and final) Messenger of Allah.

SALAAH

2. Reading the 5 Daily Prayers (see PRAYERS)

ZAKAT

3. Payment of Zakat (Obligatory Charity) (see ZAKAT)

SAWM

4.Fasting during the month of Ramadan. (see FASTING)

HAJJ

5.Hajj Pilgrimage once in a lifetime to Makkah in Saudi Arabia. (see HAJJ)

PRAYER (SALAAH)

Prayer is the second pillar of Islam and is compulsory on the individual after the age of puberty. Muslims must pray five times a day. The individual has to wear clean clothes, have a clean body and a clean area for performance of the prayer.

Muslims were informed by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that the sins between one prayer and the next prayer are forgiven ¹⁴⁵ **(V1:161)** and this is the reason why they are compulsory, because if one dies after having read a prayer then the individual has died with sins forgiven. He also explained reading five prayers is similar to having a bath five times a day. That is, bathing cleans dirt of the body and prayer cleans the stains on the soul. ¹⁴⁶ **(V1:506)**

In addition, he said, “Whenever anyone of you stands for the prayer, he is speaking in private to his Lord, or his Lord is closest to him. ¹⁴⁷ **(V1:399)** In other words the best and most rewarding place to pray is in the Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah in the centre of which is the Kabah where you are facing the Kabah from very near. Muslims are

taught that they will receive the reward of 100,000 times for every prayer read in this mosque compared to anywhere else in the world.

When in prayer one's heart mind and soul connect with the Lord forgetting worldly problems. Having obvious and apparent physical advantage, prayer is recommended for physical light exercise of the joints and muscles including stretching of the spine whilst prostrating. This prevents the individual from becoming lazy as he or she has to get up to pray.

Muslims are taught that if they read prayer in congregation in the mosque, rather than at home on their own, they will receive the reward equivalent of 27 individual prayers read at home alone.¹⁴⁸ **(V1:618)** This will help on the Day of Judgement when the book of deeds are placed on the scales determining where they end up, heaven or hell.

Muslims are encouraged to read some parts (Sunnah and Nafl) of their prayers at home and not read all of them in the mosque. That is, they are expected to keep a balance between the mosque and the home.¹⁴⁹ **(V1:424)** This approach is also for the benefit of the women and small children at home whereby they are trained and encouraged to pray by their father or husband.

The prayer can be read at home or in congregation in the local mosque. The Friday (*Jumu'a*) prayer must be read in congregation and can't be read at home. After performing the *Wudu* (See Later) which is an ablution or mini-wash, the individual makes his/her intention to pray by facing in the direction of the *Kabah* (*House of*

Allah) in Makkah in Saudi Arabia (approximately 120 degrees of true north in the UK).

The five daily prayers are: *Fajr* (the early morning prayer which must be read before sunrise), *Zuhr* (the afternoon prayer), *Asar* (the late afternoon prayer read before sunset), *Maghrib* (the evening prayer which is read after sunset immediately) and *Isha* (pronounced ee-sha, the night prayer which must be read before the starting time of the next day's Fajr morning prayer, preferably before midnight). On Friday afternoon the *Zuhr* prayer is replaced with the *Jumu'a* prayer.

The daily prayers are split into units known as *Rakah* (that is, a set of actions). One *rakah* consists of *Qiyam* (Standing), *Ruku* (Grabbing the knees whilst standing with bent back), *Sajdah* (prostration with forehead in contact with the ground) and *Qadah* (sitting position). Whilst in these positions the individual recites verses from the Quran and duas (prayers) as taught by the Prophet (pbuh) that he or she has memorised by heart.

The *rakahs* can be compulsory, highly recommended or voluntary. That is, *Sunnah* [essential part of prayer which should be read on one's own, all *Sunnah* are *Muakkadah* (highly recommended) except for first four of Asar and Isha prayers (see table below)], *Fard* [compulsory part of prayer which must be read preferably in congregation by a religious leader (*Imam*)], and *Nafl* (voluntary part of the prayer which is optional but recommended for spiritual advancement). The table below explains the breakdown of *Rakahs*:

Summary of Prayers

Prayer	Sunnah	Fard (Compulsory)	Sunnah	Sunnah	Nafl (Voluntary)	Witr	Nafl	Total
Fajr (morning)	2 (HR)	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Zuhr (afternoon)	4 (HR)	4	2 (HR)	-	2	-	-	12
Asar (late afternoon)	4 (V)	4	-	-	-	-	-	8
Maghrib (sunset)	-	3	2 (HR)	-	2	-	-	7
Isha (night)	4 (V)	4	2	-	2	3 (C)	2	17
Jumu'a (Friday)	4 (HR)	2	4 (HR)	2 (HR)	2	-	-	14

HR= Highly Recommended, V=Voluntary, C=Compulsory

Explanation of above Table: For example, the Maghrib prayer consists of 7 units (rakahs). Three Fard (obligatory) are read first followed by two Sunnah, then finally the two optional Nafl are read thereby completing seven rakahs (units). The same principle applies to all the prayers. The correct order of rakahs is as above from left to right. Therefore, it is important that each prayer must be observed at the right time and with the right conditions.

Forbidden acts during the prayer include talking, eating, drinking, laughing, passing wind and facing away from the direction of the *Kabah (House of Allah)*. The individual has to stay focused concentrating on reciting the Arabic passages and movement into the next prayer position.

There is some flexibility permitted when reading the prayers while travelling. Firstly, the prayers are shortened and secondly one can face in the best guess direction as a last resort if the direction of the *Kabah (House of Allah)* is unclear. The individual

must make an effort to find its location by using a compass or asking someone and lastly guessing . The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) used to pray on his mount in whatever direction it was moving. ¹⁵⁰ (V2:198). For example, if travelling from Scotland to London on train the individual can read the prayer whilst seated after determining where the Kabah (House of Allah) in Makkah is. Finally, if one is ill one can pray while sitting and if the individual can't manage that then one can pray whilst lying on the side. This is the advice from the Prophet (pbuh). ¹⁵¹ (V2:218)

PROPHETS

A Prophet of Islam (pbuh) is a man who has received Divine Revelation from Allah. Women have never been Prophets. He is a pious man and servant of Allah who teaches others and practices the commands of Allah himself. The Prophet is an example for mankind and is chosen by Allah to spread the Message of Allah. He usually proves his Prophethood with some sort of miracles: Moses (pbuh) and the parting of the Red sea, Jesus (pbuh) healing the blind and Muhammad (pbuh) splitting the moon. Muslims are taught that all Prophets are innocent and cannot commit any sins.

Muslims believe in all Prophets (peace be upon them all) of Allah including Jesus as a Prophet (pbuh) while not accepting the concept of Trinity. According to Islam, the first Prophet was Adam and the last Prophet is Muhammad (pbuh) and in all there have been 124,000 (more or less) Prophets since the beginning of time. The Quran

mentions the Prophets: Adam, Idris (Enoch), Nuh (Noah), Hud (Hood), Saleh (Salih), Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma'il (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Yaqub (Jacob), Yusuf (Joseph), Ayub (Job), Shuaib, Musa (Moses), Harun (Aaron), Lut (Lot), Yunus (Jonah), Al-Yas (Elisha), Zulkifl, Dawud (David), Sulaiman (Solomon), Illiyas (Elias), Zachariya, Yahya (John the Baptist) Jesus and Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

Swearing at, cursing or abusing any of the Prophets of Islam renders the individual as a blasphemer and cast out of Islam. The Prophets are to be respected, admired and praised for their efforts and sacrifices in delivering the message of Allah. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "The Prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different but their religion is one." ¹⁵² **(V4:652)** According to Islam the physical bodies of the Prophets do not rot and remain intact.

PROSTITUTION

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) forbade prostitution in any form with any intention for any purpose. It is absolutely forbidden including earning monies from prostitution. ¹⁵³ **(V3:439)**

PUNISHMENT

Islam's philosophy is you have to be cruel to be kind. For example, in Saudi Arabia the punishment for stealing is hand amputation. This is cruel for the individual but kind to society because individuals can go about their business without fear of assault, robbery, theft etc.

The punishment for physical adultery is death by stoning. In reality, this rarely happens in the Islamic world as witnesses and confessions are necessary. The main purpose of punishment is to deter the individual and minimise crime and thereby the sins of the individual.

The punishment for intentional murder is death. Public executions only take place as a deterrent to the rest of society. In the Islamic judicial system, the relatives of the victims of murder have the final say: they can accept suitable compensation from the murderer or his relatives, forgive the individual or request the death penalty.

Q

QURAN

The Quran is the Muslim's Holy Book. It is regarded as the Final Book of Allah after the others (see above) and is absolute as far as the Muslims are concerned. It is a continuation of the previous religious values, codes and instructions to mankind with additional new teachings and guidelines for all people for all time to come.

The Quran was revealed by Allah to Muhammad (pbuh) through the Angel Gabriel in the Arabic language, over a 23 year period of his life. The revelations being split, some were received in Makkah and the rest in Madina.

Allah states in the Quran that it is a 'confirmation of revelation that was before (Torah & Gospels). ¹⁵⁴ **(Q10:37)** The Quran is a code of principles and practices for the guidance of the individual over one's life. Its main instructions include to follow Allah's orders and the Prophet's rulings on all subject matters. To practice, humanity, charity, be honest, truthful, fair and honest in dealings with others, respect the individual and agree to disagree over differences.

The Quran is split into 30 equal parts. There are 114 Surahs (chapters) ranging from a few sentences to larger chapters. It can take anywhere from 15-30 hours to read it depending on experience, ability and if Arabic is your mother tongue.

Muslims claim the Quran is Divine because there is only one version, that is, the Arabic text in the Quran is the same whichever copy is picked up anywhere in the world, whether in Singapore or in California.

R

RAMADAN

Ramadan is the holy month of fasting (see FASTING above) The advantage Ramadan has over the rest of the year is that every prayer and worship like reading the Quran is multiplied by 70 times. That is the individual gets the sawaab (spiritual blessings) of 70 times the effort compared to the rest of the year.

During Ramadan Muslims also have the Powerful Night of Lailatul Qadr. This is when an individual can pray, read Quran and do worship and gain the sawaab (spiritual blessings) of the equivalent of 1000 months or 83.4 years of effort for just one night's worship but only if they are steadfast during the year. Just to turn up for this occasion whilst neglecting prayers during the year is questionable.

Muslims are taught that during the month of Ramadan the gates of Hell are closed and the gates of Paradise are open and if someone dies during this month they are blessed. Ramadan is also the month of forgiveness and reconciliation with friends and family and a time for reflection.

RESPECT

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Gabriel continued to teach me about treating the neighbours kindly and politely; so much so that I thought he would order me to make them my heirs.” ¹⁵⁵ **(V8:43)** Islam advocates respect of the neighbours, relatives, elders and Non-Muslims. The Prophet used to respect his enemies, those who hated him and wanted to see him dead. He never turned them away from his door and laid out sheets on the floor for them and treated them hospitably.

The Prophet’s (pbuh) son-in-law and cousin Ali (RA) was once late for prayer in the mosque and was asked by the congregation as to why this was. Ali (RA) replied that an old man was in front of him and he did not want to rush past him causing offence.

RESURRECTION

Muslims believe in the Day of Resurrection when the individual will be recreated from the spinal bone. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “Everything of a human body will waste away, perish or decay (in the grave) except the last coccyx bone (spinal bone) and from that bone Allah will reconstruct the whole body.” ¹⁵⁶ **(V6:338)**

RIGHT HAND SIDE

The Muslim life revolves around practices and behaviour which start from the right hand side in the tradition of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh). Here are some examples:

1. Right shoe is worn first. ¹⁵⁷ **(V1:169)**
2. Clothes are worn with the right side first. ¹⁵⁷ **(V1:169)**
3. Combing the hair from the right side first. ¹⁵⁷ **(V1:169)**
4. Washing by starting from the right side. ¹⁵⁷ **(V1:169)**
5. Eating with your right hand. ¹⁵⁸ **(V7:288)**
6. The Prophet used to lie on his right side when he used to sleep. ¹⁵⁹ **(V8:322)**
7. All giving and taking with the right hand.

The exception to the right hand side rule is cleaning the backside which must be with the left hand. ¹⁶⁰ **(V1:155)**

S

SADQAH-JAARIYAH (LONG TERM BENEFIT)

This is an optional and voluntary charity as compared to *zakat* which is a compulsory charity on the rich. *Sadqah* is highly recommended and appreciated by the Prophet (pbuh) as it helps the unfortunate in the society.

Sadaqa Jarriyah has long lasting effects, for example, if one provides funding for an orphanage or a well for providing drinking water. Then as long as there is a humanitarian benefit from the individual's contribution towards the capital investment then he/she will keep getting the spiritual reward (*sawaab*-see below) of that charitable deed i.e. money spent on a good cause. That is, as long as someone is getting fresh drinking water the individual keeps benefiting even after death. ¹⁶¹

(Sahih Muslim, The Book of Wasiya (Wills and Testaments))

SAHABA

Sahaba refers to the people both male and female who saw or met with the Prophet (pbuh) in the state of Iman or belief. Even the person who saw the Prophet (pbuh) for a brief moment, met him or spoke to him, then the individual was classed as a *Sahabi* (singular). This also included, all those who accepted him and were alive in his physical presence very close to him on a day to day basis. There were no further Shabah after he passed away and Muslims are taught that no individual can achieve the status of the Sahaba regardless of all his/her goodness and piety. To summarise, they were closest to him similar to the disciples with Jesus (pbuh).

SAWAAB

The Muslim life revolves around the concept of *sawaab* or spiritual blessings. The best way to describe this is, as a good action or good behaviour point system. When the individual does something positive, then he or she is rewarded with *sawaab*.

The angel on the right hand shoulder notes the action or behaviour and records it in the individual's personal account or book. The aim is to maximise the amount of *sawaab* gained over a lifetime in order that when both books are placed on the scales on the Day of Judgement, the right hand book is heavier with good deeds, than the left hand book of bad deeds, turning the scale to the right thereby saving the person from Hell.

To encourage the individual to behave well, live a life of integrity and honour, Muslims have been informed by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that each good deed can earn up to 10-700 times what was done. ¹⁶² **(V1:40)**

According to Islam, if someone intends to do a good deed, and he/she does not do it, then Allah will write for him a full deed i.e. this equals the sawaab of doing a good deed regardless if it is done or not. If someone actually does a good deed then this equals the sawaab of 10-700 times of the good deed or more. If someone intends of doing a bad deed but doesn't do it then Allah will write a full deed i.e. this is recorded as the sawaab of a good deed, and finally if someone does actually do a bad deed then this equals the punishment of one bad deed. ¹⁶³ **(V8:498)** In other words, the recording system is geared for good practice.

Examples of *sawaab* include:

Praying, fasting, charity, sponsorship of orphans , feeding the poor, helping victims of natural disasters, Hajj, visiting the sick at home or in hospital ¹⁶⁴ (V3:625), attending funerals, saying bless you when someone sneezes, accepting invitations to dinner parties, filling in forms for someone, giving help to someone who is in need, fetching someone a glass of water, earning a living for one's family, buying gifts or presents for friends or family, and anything else that is helpful, considerate and compassionate.

SHAITAN (SATAN or IBLIS)

According to Islam Satan was ordered to prostrate to Prophet Adam (pbuh) but refused. ¹⁶⁵ (Q2:34) He argued that he was made from fire and Adam was made out of clay and therefore he was superior to Adam. ¹⁶⁶ (Q7:12-13)

According to Islam Satan is a Jinn (See JINN above) and not an angel. It was because of his pride, ego and arrogant attitude that he refused to prostrate to Prophet Adam (pbuh) to show his respect to him. He requested Allah to let him live rather than be destroyed and he challenged Allah to test Allah's creation and Allah agreed before he was cast out of heaven.

Muslims believe that all the problems on the planet, wars, conflict and religious divisions are due to Satan being cast out of heaven and causing mischief amongst

mankind. It is up to mankind to resist Satan's evil influence by using their intellect to differentiate between right and wrong.

According to Islam when a new born baby is delivered into the world Satan touches (pinches) the child and this makes the baby cry. ¹⁶⁷ (V4:506) Muslims are taught Satan is mankind's enemy from the moment a person is born to his/her dying last breath.

SHIA MUSLIMS

Shia Muslims are the majority in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, and significant minorities in Pakistan (30%), Kuwait (48%), and Syria (30%). ¹⁶⁸ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_population]. However, they are spread all over the world and represent about twenty percent of the 1.2-1.5 Billion Muslims in the world. The main difference between the Shia sect and the larger Sunni sect is that there is a dispute as to who should have succeeded the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) after he died.

The Sunnis believe that Abu Bakr (companion of the Prophet) was the first successor but the Shias believe that it should have been Ali his son in law and cousin, who was married to Muhammad (pbuh)'s daughter Fatimah. They reject Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman as Caliphs. In addition, the Shias reject the four imams that the Muslims believe in (see FOUR IMAMS above) and believe in their own twelve.

SIGNS OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

The Christians have discussion in the Holy Bible about the end of time of mankind in the Book of Revelations which they call the Last Days. In a similar manner, the Muslims have been given details by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) regarding the signs before the end of the world.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) taught his followers to wait for Doomsday when the power of authority (government) was in the hands of the unfit (for public duty) ¹⁶⁹ **(V1:56)** or corrupt officials.

He also gave numerous other signs which would have to happen before end of the world :

Minor Signs

- 1.Frequent earthquakes. ¹⁷⁰ **(V2:146)**
- 2.Time will pass quickly. ¹⁷⁰ **(V2:146)**
- 3.Afflictions will appear. ¹⁷⁰ **(V2:146)**
- 4.Murders will increase. ¹⁷⁰ **(V2:146)**
- 5.One will not care how one gains money, legally or illegally. ¹⁷¹ **(V3:275)**
- 6.Fifty women will be looked after by one man. ¹⁷² **(V7:158)**
- 7.Competition to build higher and higher buildings. ¹⁷³ **(V9:237)**

Major Signs

- 8.Appearance of (Imam) Mahdi.

9. Appearance of the Dajjal (Anti-Christ).
10. Return of Jesus (pbuh).
11. Release of Gog and Magog.
12. Rising of the sun in the west. ¹⁷⁴ **(V4:421)**
13. Appearance of the beast. ¹⁷⁵ **(Quran 27:82)**
14. Cool breeze from south.
15. Destruction of Kabah (House of Allah)
16. Fire in Yemen ¹⁷⁶ **(Sharh An-Nawawi Ala Sahih Muslim, vol.18, p.29)**

SIN

A sin is an activity or form of behaviour which goes against the instructions of Allah and ways of the Prophets (pbuh). The major sins in Islam include:

1. To deny in Allah's existence, His Prophets, His Books and fundamental principles of Islam is called *Kufr* and the person is a *Kafir*. (see BELIEFS above)
2. Associating any partners with Allah which is called *Shirk* and the person doing this is known as a *Mushrik*.
3. To lie.
4. Pretending to be a Muslim but from the inside is the enemy of Islam is called *Nifaq* and the person is a *Munafiq*.
5. To commit fornication. (sex before marriage)
6. To commit Adultery. (sex outside marriage)

- 7.Homosexuality and gay relationships.
- 8.Stealing, robbing, fraud and corruption.
- 9.Cheating, deceiving and being two faced.
- 10.Giving false testimony or a false oath or being a false witness.
- 11.False accusation or charge laid against someone.
- 12.Backbiting, gossiping, talking too much about others, envy and jealousy.
- 13.Injury to someone's feeling by use of abusive, rude, inconsiderate or tactless language.

Regarding adultery, according to Islam there are three kinds: adultery of the eye such as lusting, ogling, infatuation and desire. Then there is the adultery of the tongue and finally the physical adultery of cheating on one's partner. ¹⁷⁷ **(V8:609)** The punishment for physical adultery is death by stoning and the punishment for fornication is 100 lashes, although these have to be proved beforehand.

According to Islam if an individual becomes a Muslim then the slate is wiped clean and all sins recorded in the book of bad deeds are erased and the account starts afresh at whatever point in life. Regardless of what was done in the past it is forgiven and forgotten.

SIRAT

Sirat is the term for the bridge of faith which leads to heaven but below it is the pit of hell. If the individual has been successful after the scales have been weighed and one has led a good life then the individual will be able to cross the bridge with ease in a moment. However, if the individual has been unsuccessful, then will fall off the bridge into the pit of hell below.

SODOMY

Sodomy or anal sex is *haram* (forbidden) in Islam and is not permitted. Whether the individual is heterosexual, bisexual or homosexual, the ruling is the same and each individual within these groups is committing a sin. This is seen as a negative act and therefore is recorded as a bad deed by the recording angel on the left shoulder, in the Book of Deeds which are weighed on the Scales (*Meezaan*) on the Day of Judgement.

SOUL

Muslims are taught that all souls are Muslim ¹⁷⁸ (V2:440) and it enters the foetus in the mother's womb after four months (120 days). ¹⁷⁹ (V4:300) After birth the child is raised and taught the religion of his/her parents. ¹⁸⁰ (V2:440)

According to Islam the Angel Izra'eel arrives at the time of death to take the soul out of the body. The soul is apparently taken to heaven and rests there until the body is buried. After burial the soul returns to enter its body. Then two angels called Munkar and Naheer arrive to ask the individuals questions:

1. Who is your Lord?
2. What is your religion?
3. What did you used to say about this man [Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)]? ¹⁸¹

(V2:422)

Muslims are taught that every human being regardless of religion will be asked who this man is in the grave and they will see the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the grave and asked to identify him. The Non-Muslims and hypocrite Muslims will not be able to recognise him and only the pious Muslims will confirm it is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

According to Islam those who have been cremated will be resurrected from where the spinal bone particles are laying e.g. beach, field, mountain etc. That is, the grave is where the spinal bone particles are on earth.

SUFI

A *Sufi* is someone of high spiritual status who is trying to be close to God with his ultimate goal in life. His life is devoted to prayer and worship. The sufi usually has

a teacher known as a Shaykh who himself once trained as a sufi and now teaches others, that is gives tips on what to do, what to read, when and how often.

SUNNI MUSLIMS

The Sunni Muslims represent the majority of Muslims in the world, about 80%. They follow the four schools of thought or the four Imams (see above). That is, the Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi and Hanbali schools of thought. They recognise the first four Imams after the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) passed away which the shias don't. The Sunnis Muslims are further divided along national and geographical lines.

SUICIDE

Islam is clear about suicide, it is forbidden. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "Whoever commits suicide with a piece of iron (e.g. gun) will be punished with the same piece of iron in the Hell Fire." ¹⁸² **(V2:445)**

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "None of you should wish for death because of a calamity (problem) befalling him." ¹⁸³ **(V7:575)** In addition, he said, "For if he is a good doer he may increase his good deeds, and if he is an evil doer, he may repent to Allah." ¹⁸⁴ **(V7:577)** That is, staying alive gives the individual the chance of doing

good deeds such as practicing charity, helping the poor and other good deeds whether social, cultural or religious, and if the person is doing wrong then there is opportunity to change and lead a good life.

This ruling also applies for victims of ill health e.g. terminal disease. The individual is supposed to be patient and die a natural death rather commit suicide, therefore euthanasia is forbidden in Islam. In addition, if one has lost hope in life, e.g. marriage break up and or lost a job or is suffering from depression the advice is the same-be patient and not consider suicide.

SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Suicide bombings take place because individuals have been victims of bereavement, oppression and frustration. This combined with the influence of foreign criminal elements who have deliberately interpreted Islam wrongly and then lead people astray to commit these acts. As killing women and children during conflict and at any other time is forbidden in Islam.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) “disapproved the killing of women and children.”¹⁸⁵ **(V4:257)** The rules of engagement were clearly laid down by the Prophet; no targeting of women and children. Muslim suicide bombers who deliberately target civilian men, women and children anywhere in the world have been misinformed or misled by criminal elements.

SELF SACRIFICE (MARTYR or SHAHEED)

The principle of self sacrifice to save others lives is highly recommended in Islam. To throw one's life away in order to save the lives of the innocents is the greatest honour for a Muslim in Islam and the individual is awarded the title of *shaheed* (martyr).

During World War II an RAF pilot deliberately rammed his spitfire into a Nazi plane, thereby killing himself and the Nazi pilot and saving the lives of innocent civilians on the ground. This heroic act was rewarded with a medal of honour.

When your oppressor or foreign invader has intention of committing genocide against your fellow citizens, Islam gives the individual the right to self defence and fight back through self-sacrifice if no other means of stopping the enemy is available, as a last resort.

During the 1965 war between Pakistan and India, the Indian tanks rolled across the border to Lahore. Pakistani soldiers had no anti-tank missiles, therefore they attached explosives to their stomachs and dived under the tanks killing themselves and stopping the tanks in their place, thereby saving countless lives of their fellow countrymen and women. This is the mark of the true martyr (shaheed). (See MARTYR above)

T

TAHAJJUD

This is the optional night prayer after Isha but before the morning (Fajr) prayer. Its is usually read after sleeping for a while by the most devout and pious Muslims as it involves interrupting one's sleep to get up and read it.

TATOOS

Muslims are forbidden from having tattoos because the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) instructed his followers not to have them. ¹⁸⁶ **(V3:299)**

TRUMPET

Muslims believe there is an angel called Israfeel who holds a trumpet and is waiting ready to blow it when the order is given by Allah. ¹⁸⁷ **(As-Silsilah As-Sahihah, no. 1079)** After the Fire in Yemen there will be a short period before the blowing of the

trumpet. During this period there will be no Muslims on the planet. When the trumpet is blown the whole of mankind (at that time) and all living creation will be destroyed.

¹⁸⁸ **(V4:626)**

This will happen on a Friday on the 10th of Islamic month of Muharram. On the second blowing of the trumpet all individuals since the beginning of time in the graves will be resurrected ¹⁸⁹ **(Q36:51)** and proceed by making their way to *Mahshar* (place of gathering) in Syria for their individual judgement.

U

UMMAH

Muslims believe in the concept of the Ummah. That is the term for Muslim Community. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim.” ¹⁹⁰ **(V3:622)**

In addition, he said, “A believer (Muslim) is like a building whose different parts enforce (support) each other.” ¹⁹¹ **(V3:626)** That is, it is the duty of the Muslims to help and support their fellow Muslims anywhere in the world.

Further more he said, regarding Muslims, "...resembling one body, so that if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness (insomnia) and fever with it." ¹⁹² **(V8:40)**

UMRAH

The *Umrah* is an optional worship dependent on financial and health circumstances. It involves a physical journey to the Holy Land in Saudi Arabia and includes a series of actions in and around the *Kabah (House of Allah)* in Makkah. Firstly, the male first puts on the *Ihram* consisting of two large white cotton sheets (one for the upper half of the body and the other for the lower part). Females have to be dressed modestly. Next, both husband and wife (if travelling together) proceed to the Mosque and enter it through any Gate.

Next, seven circuits or circles are made around the *Kabah (House of Allah)* building whilst the individual recites Arabic text memorised from the Quran or other duas (prayers), kissing the stone called *Hajr-e-Aswad* built into the building at the start of each circuit. This is followed by a short 2 Rakah prayer performed in front of the *Maqam-e-Ibraheem* followed by kissing of stone again followed by drinking *ZamZam*, the holy water.

Then they proceed to perform the *Sa'ee*, a combined jog and run between the 2 hills of *Safa* and *Marwa* copying *Hajar's* (Abraham's Wife) search for water for her son *Ismail*. Seven legs have to be completed with each leg representing 450 metres

(3.15km in total). This is followed by another 2 Rakah prayer and finally a haircut. Now the individual is free to change into ordinary clothes and carry out normal activities.

USURY (INTEREST)

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “avoid the seven great destructive sins,” his followers enquired what they were and he replied listing them all including to, “eat up (consume) Riba (usury or interest).”¹⁹³ **(V4:28)**

According to Islam paying interest on loans and mortgages is not beneficial for the individual and society. Individuals in debt have difficulty in paying interest and the gap between the rich and poor is increased because of interest received on savings. Islam’s philosophy is interest is a tool of exploitation.

However, in the UK and elsewhere most Muslims have no alternative as their savings or income cannot match house price increases. Therefore, they reluctantly choose to pay interest in order to have a home belonging to themselves.

V

VEIL See HIJAB

W

WAR

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “War is deceit.”¹⁹⁴ **(V4:269)** That is war, is based on tricks and better strategies against the enemy.

Muslim governments are forbidden to start war without reason, that is they are not supposed to be the aggressors. War is only permitted to protect themselves from oppressions and aggressions. War is for protection of the people from those who wish to do harm to the country and the citizens within that country, therefore Islam gives permission to fight back against invaders and oppressors.

There are strict codes of conduct during war such as Muslims are not allowed to kill women and children, sick or old people, not destroy crops and trees and ensure the fair treatment of prisoners of war.

WEALTH

Wealth is regarded as a test in Islam. That is, the rich have the responsibility of using their money wisely and to pay their zakat (obligatory charity) and help others. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “If a person spends wealth in legal way and spends it properly, then it is an excellent helper, and whoever earns it in an illegal way, he will be like the one who consumes but is never satisfied.”¹⁹⁵ **(V8:435)**

WOMEN

Women in Islam are expected to dress modestly, covered from head to toe,¹⁹⁶ **(Q24:31)** therefore are unlikely to wear bikinis or mini skirts. That is, follow in the tradition of religious women such as the Christian nuns. In addition, in accordance with the instructions in the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh), not to drink alcohol.

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, “A man is the guardian of his family and responsible for them. A woman is guardian of her husband’s home and is responsible for it.”¹⁹⁷ **(V2:18)** In other words the man is supposed to look after the family (financially and protect them), and the woman is supposed to look after the husband’s (partner’s) home e.g. look after the children and all domestic affairs. Together this should result in the ideal team for a stable home.

Women are not supposed to travel for three days distance (approximately 50 miles or more) without a male relative companion or chaperone. ¹⁹⁸ **(V2:198)** This is for their own protection and safety. Because of this ruling it is highly unlikely that a Muslim woman would be allowed to go backpacking on her own as it is potentially dangerous. Women are not supposed to steal another woman's man. The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said, "A woman should not try to cause some other woman to be divorced in order to take her place." ¹⁹⁹ **(V3:350)**

Women are entitled to their financial rights in traditional relationships where the male is the sole breadwinner. Once a woman approached the Prophet and complained her husband was a miser (tight-fisted). The Prophet said, "You and your sons may take what is sufficiently reasonable and fair." ²⁰⁰ **(V3:413)** If both partners are working the man has responsibility to provide financially for his family and the home. However, the woman's money is ring fenced (untouchable) to the man unless the woman agrees voluntarily.

Women in Islam are supposed to give up breast feeding of their baby after two to two and a half years. ²⁰¹ **(V7:Chapter 22, p26)** ²⁰² **(Q2:233)**

To summarise, the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) said treat women gently, be merciful, kind and compassionate to them and gave the example of the rib. He said, "The most curved portion of the rib is its upper portion, so, if you should try to straighten it, it will break, but if you leave it as it is it will remain curved." ²⁰³ **(V4:548)**

WUDU

The *Wudu* is a special type of purification or mini-wash (ablution) for Muslims where they must first wash themselves before the five daily prayers, Eid prayers, funeral prayers, entering the Mosque in Makkah and Madina or reading the Quran. The hands are washed first followed by rinsing out the mouth and then the nasal passages. This is followed by washing the face and forehead, the forearms up to the elbows, then brushing the head and hair with wet hands. Finally, the feet are washed up to the ankles. ²⁰⁴ (V1:142)

The *Wudu* must be performed before prayers as well as before reading the Quran and walking around the *Kabah (House of Allah)* in the Mosque in Makkah. The *Wudu* can be 'broken' by the need to go to the toilet, passing wind, vomiting, bleeding, laughing aloud during prayer or falling asleep. If this happens, the whole *wudu* has to be performed again before the individual can pray or touch the Quran again.

During the winter months it is possible to read several prayers with one wudu [Zuhr (afternoon), Asar (late afternoon) and Maghrib (sunset)] by 'holding' the wudu by not going to the toilet or passing wind etc. because of the short days.

Y

YEAR

The Muslim year is based on the lunar year and is shorter than the traditional January to December year by 10 days. It starts with the hijra (migration) of the Prophet from Makkah to Madina because of persecution of him after stating his Prophethood. The first year of the Muslims starts at 622A.D.

The Islamic months in order are: Muharram, Safar, Rabi-al-Awwal, Rabi-al-Thani, Jamadi-al-Awwal, Jamadi-al Thani, , Rajab, Shaban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Dhul Qa'dah and Dhul Hijja.

The calendar is divided into twelve months of 29 or 30 days based on moon sighting. The more important months are: Muharram-during which the Prophet's grandson Imam Husain (RA) was martyred, Rabi-al-Awwal-the month of the birthday of the Prophet (pbuh), Ramadan-the month of fasting and the month the Quran was first communicated through the Angel Gabriel and Dhul Hijja the month for the annual Hajj Pilgrimage for Muslims.

Z

ZAKAT

Zakat is the Muslim obligatory charity and is the third pillar of Islam. It is collected in Muslim countries by banks or paid individually by Muslims in the UK and all over the world, and is based on a set of rules and regulations. It is 2.5% of all wealth (savings, income from all sources e.g. rental income and investment income and gold held at home) or net income after loans and expenses and distributed to the poor anywhere in the world.

The purpose of zakat is to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor thereby reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. ²⁰⁵ **(V2:478)** However, there will be Muslims who do not pay their zakat.

As far as the rest of the Muslims who pay zakat are concerned those who do not pay zakat are directly stealing from the mouths of the poor contributing to the widening gap between the rich and poor in Muslim societies.

Muslims have been warned by the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) that if they do not pay zakat then their punishment is that their unpaid zakat or wealth which they have been holding onto unjustly will turn into a snake wrapping itself around the individual's neck, facing them and biting on the cheeks. ²⁰⁶ **(V2 :486)**

ZAKAT AL-FITR

This an obligatory charity contribution, which preferably should be paid before the Eid prayer on the morning of the end of the Muslim month of fasting-Ramadan, on the Eid day and is distributed to the poor. ²⁰⁷ (V2:585) The amount is based on the following: 3.8kg of dates, barley or raisins, or 1.9kg of wheat or the purchase price equivalent of these items.

ZAMZAM

ZamZam is the Muslim's Holy water. It is a spring of flowing water inside Masjid al-Haram in Makkah to the east side of the Kabah (House of Allah). According to Islam, Hajar, the wife of the Prophet Abraham searched for water for her son Ismail and because of Allah's Mercy a spring appeared miraculously in the desert exactly where it is today. She saw an angel digging the earth with his heel or his wing till water flowed from that place. ²⁰⁸ (V4:583)

ZIKR

Zikr is the term for any type of prayer, worship or remembrance of Allah. It can be carried out by the individual or in a group, at home or in the mosque for the purpose

of gaining sawaab (spiritual blessings). It can be carried out aloud if in congregation or quietly by the individual so as not to disturb others when in their presence unless they approve.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL EVENTS ACCORDING TO ISLAM

- 1.Soul of individual is waiting in heaven to enter the foetus in the womb of the mother before entering this world.
- 2.Angel arrives and breathes soul into the unborn foetus in the womb when it is four months old. (120 days)
- 3.Birth of child and *Azaan* (Muslim call to prayer) of Fajr (morning) prayer in the right ear first and followed by the *Iqamat* (second call to prayer) in the left ear to let the soul know it is a Muslim.
- 4.Individual is raised by his/her parents and taught how to read Quran and pray, and the difference between right and wrong.
- 5.After the age of puberty accountability begins with the angels on the shoulders recording all events and activities of the individual during his/her lifetime. The angel on the left shoulder records bad or negative actions i.e. sins and the angel on the right shoulder records good deeds i.e. charity and prayer etc.
- 6.Angel Izrael arrives at the appointed time for death and takes the soul out of the body of the individual.

7. Angels raise the soul of the individual out of the body to the corner of the room and show the deceased his/her dead body and inform him/her he is dead and then take the soul to heaven to wait until the body is buried.

8. In the meantime the living relatives and members of the Muslim Community prepare the body for burial by giving it a Ghusl (Bath) and covering the body in three white cotton sheets for male and five for the female. .

9. The Jinazah (Funeral) Prayer takes place in mosque or cemetery and the individual is buried.

10. After burial in the grave the soul is returned to the dead body and the individual is approached by two angels in the grave who come to question him/her.

11. The individual is then shown both heaven and hell in the grave and is told to rest if he/she is good and punished if it is bad.

12. At a time only known to Allah the Physical Resurrection takes place from backbone and the individual leaves the grave naked and uncircumcised and makes his or her way for their Judgement in Syria.

13. Gathering of whole mankind since the beginning of creation takes place in Syria.

14. Both Book of Deeds are placed on the Scales to determine the individual's fate.

15. Depending on outcome at the Scales the Book of Deeds are handed in either left hand or right hand to the individual. If the book of deeds is received in the left hand the individual is going to hell and if the book of deeds is received in the right hand the individual is going to heaven.

16. Those who are unsuccessful will then appeal for intercession from the great Prophets turn by turn, that is from Noah (pbuh) to Abraham (pbuh) to Moses (pbuh), then Jesus (pbuh) and finally to Muhammad (pbuh).

17. Eventually there is a walk across *Sirat* Bridge leading to Heaven if successful earlier or a fall into the pit of Hell below the bridge.

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133. Sahih Al-Bukhari volume 3: number 573

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A to Z of ISLAM

A to Z of Islam is an excellent reference guide for the individual for a brief summary of Islam, its terminology, customs, behaviours, actions, rules and regulations under which Muslims abide. The A to Z of Islam attempts to break down the barriers of ignorance between Muslims and Non-Muslims and gives the reader answers to many questions they are afraid to ask their Muslim colleagues and neighbours.

A to Z of Islam takes the reader into the mindset of the Muslims, what they believe, their customs, rituals, practices and their philosophy on life. It shows the reader striking similarities with the other major faiths and the compassionate side of Islam.

Their actions and activities are controlled by participating in positive acts such as prayer, fasting, zakat (charity) and Hajj (Pilgrimage) because Islam means 'submission'. That is, to submit to the rules and regulations as laid down in the Quran (Muslim Holy Book) by Allah and the statements of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (pbuh).

Islam is a religion of tolerance, love, respect and welfare of human beings regardless of race, nationality or religion. It is a religion of equal rights for all. It involves control of desires of all forbidden (*haram*) things to enable the individual to become a better person and thereby fulfil the responsibility to become a good citizen abiding by social ethics.

Islam teaches the preservation of life and forbids the killing of life. The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (pbuh) said, "Avoid the seven destructive sins," including "to kill the life." (Sahih Al-Bukhari Volume 4, Number 28). Most importantly Islam's philosophy is to live and let live.