

Muslims remember God in many ways, but there are five key pillars which every Muslim is expected to follow:

1. Shahadah (testimony):

To recognise, believe and bear witness that nobody has the right to be worshipped except God alone and that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet of God.

This is the most important aspect of faith and reason why God has created us. God states in the Quran regarding this:

“And I did not Create the jinn and humans except that they should worship Me (alone).” (Quran 51:56)



2. Salaat (prayer):

To perform the five daily prayers; each prayer takes approximately five minutes and Muslims perform these to remember God and to show appreciation for everything He has given to us, such as our hearing, sight, clothes, food, family etc.

3. Zakaat (charity):

To donate 2.5% from one's savings to charity once a year. This helps to purify the shortcomings within ourselves and our wealth, and reminds us to remember and help those who are less fortunate.

4. Sawm (fast):

To fast consecutively during the month of Ramadhan. God states in the Quran that:

“O you who have believed, we have decreed fasting upon as it was decreed upon those before you, so that you may become of the righteous (God-conscious).” (Quran 2:183)

When one makes a conscious decision to fast then at times of hunger, one is reminded of why he/she is fasting because our Creator has ordained it for us. Hence, a Muslim in the state of fasting remembers God throughout the day and appreciates the favours and blessings which He has given to us.

5. Hajj (pilgrimage):

To visit Mecca and perform the pilgrimage at least once during one's lifetime. This is a command from God in the Quran and all Muslims are expected to fulfil this as long they are able to afford it.

These are the five pillars of the faith and this is Islam – a religion centred on recognising and worshipping One God alone, who is the Creator of everything.

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

What Is Islam?

Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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Islam is the fastest growing faith in the world but it is arguably among the most misunderstood as well. Hence, in this leaflet, we've decided to provide our readers with a quick insight into what is Islam and we kindly request you to please take a few minutes to read through it.

What is Islam?

Islam is a religion based on worshipping God alone and recognising the fact that all the Prophets including Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT), were all sent by this same God to deliver this same message – this message is Islam:



Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who) submit to Him (God alone)." (Quran 3:84)

Hence, in Islam all the prophets were Muslims and so were their followers. This includes Mary and the prophet John (the Baptist) (PBUT), the disciples and the children of Israel, because they all believed and worshipped the same God alone.

So who is God?

In Islam, God was always there from the very beginning and He will always be there.

He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything around us; including us. He was never created and will never die.

Sleep and tiredness never inflicts Him, and it is through His Kindness, Might, Power, Mercy, Love and Patience that he effortlessly provides for His Creation every day and every second; both in this world and the next.

"Allah! (God) There is no god but He - the Living, the Self-subsisting, the Eternal. No slumber can seize Him, nor Sleep. To Him belongs everything within the heavens and on earth." (Quran 2:255)

God has no partners and no children, and having created everything on His own, He makes it clear many times in the Quran that nobody has the right to be worshipped and recognised as a God and Creator except Him alone.

"Allah (God)...none has the right to be worshipped except Him alone, the Creator of all things." (Quran 6:102)

This is the biggest and most important distinction between Islam and other faiths.



So why has God created us?

This is a powerful question and the answer is very simple – in Islam God has made us to test us to see if we are willing to look beyond what is directly in front of us and to recognise Him as the Creator of everything.

Take the example of the current President of the United States. Hypothetically speaking, some may argue that he is the most powerful man on Earth. Yet, imagine if tomorrow, all of the human race and animals were to suddenly disappear and all that was left on this Earth was only the President – even though, he may be the most powerful man on Earth, there would be no one left to recognise or to appreciate his status.

In Islam, God has made us for a similar purpose; our purpose is to recognise Him and His status as our Creator and Sustainer. This is why God asks us to think:

"Did you honestly think that We had created you for play, and without any purpose, and that you would not be brought back to Us?" (Quran 23:115)

So what is the purpose of our existence?

Islam encourages us to surrender and submit to the boundaries set by God. Why has God set these boundaries? To make us more conscious of Him so that we don't forget Him.

For example: When a Muslim consciously abstains from eating by fasting or when they pray – this serves to remind the Muslim that the reason they are doing this is because they believe, accept and remember the existence of their Creator and everything He has given to us.

"So remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me." (Quran 2:152)

Muslims show that they believe in God with certainty by accepting and following His commands.

Hence, a Muslim spends their life striving to adhere to these boundaries, and in doing so, they fulfil their purpose in life by recognising their Creator, worshipping Him and showing gratitude for everything He has given to us.

On the other hand, a person who does as he or she pleases will consequently never really spend much time thinking about God, and will eventually forget Him.

"They have forgotten Allah (God), so He has forgotten them. Surely the hypocrites are the defiantly disobedient." (Quran 9:67).



the world we live in.

Could all of these have simply appeared and formed by themselves over time?

Some still say yes. Yet, let's think about this:



A baby needs a number of very complex interdependent systems to live and survive. These systems include the nervous, digestive, excretory, circulatory, skeletal, muscular and immune system; and for a baby to survive and live, each system requires all the other systems to be functioning.

Therefore all these systems must be in operation at the same time and could not have evolved slowly over millions of years.

And what are the chances of an intricate male reproductive system coming about by time, chance and random mutation? It would need to be fully functional along the entire evolutionary timeline so that reproduction could continue.

And remember; this highly unlikely progression would be pointless unless the female reproductive system had randomly evolved in perfect sync to compliment the developing male system so that they both worked in harmony over the millions of years of evolutionary refinement!

This logic applies to all the other species on earth as well.

There is no evidence anywhere of the evolution of such systems. More than that, not even any hypothetical process can be thought of to explain how something like the brain and the digestive system could have evolved bit by bit over time!



How did everything appear?

Islam explains how these were all formed by calling people to recognise the Creator of everything – God.

In Islam, all the prophets including Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, John (the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUH), all worshipped this same God alone.

God was always there from the beginning and will always be there. He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything around us, including us. This is why God states in the Quran:

“Allah (God)...none has the right to be worshipped except Him alone, the Creator of all things.” (Quran 6:102).

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

To Believe
Or
Not To Believe?

Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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What would you think if someone told you that...

His 'theory' of how cars are made is like this:

A scrap yard on the south of town blows up and all the metal pieces fly into the air; and then fall back down into one place to form a brand new Lamborghini ... with no left over parts ... and the motor running?



Or what if his theory for how a chair is made is:

An explosion occurs in a forest and the trees go flying into the air; and then suddenly they combine together with some flying cloth to make a beautiful chair ... and then it lands in a furniture showroom complete with a matching table and lamp...

He further explains that:



An earthquake in California's 'Silicon Valley' causes the computer chips, circuit boards and other various parts to fall out of their boxes and off their shelves; and just come in place together as they are rolling around on the floor and form the most advanced technical computers existing on the earth?

Or what about his 'Medicine Theory'? He now claims that:

A gas leak in a pharmacy warehouse results in a terrific explosion. All the different chemicals and substances just smash into each other in exactly the correct amounts to produce a miracle drug which cures everything from cancer to heart and liver disease, old age and warts?



Wait ... there's more to this one:

It's an all in one formula, packaged in the bottles with labels and ready to sell, with no mess left on the floor?

Now after all this exploding and excitement, this person tells you of a great place where you can relax and have something to eat. It's his favourite place and he calls it...



"Burger Blast!"

He says:

"You just go in and sit down, and suddenly a 'blast' from the kitchen occurs and immediately a burger lands right in front of you with all the trimmings... just the way you like it; complete with fries, a drink and even your favourite dessert?"

AND...

No one works at "Burger Blast!"

It just runs on its own; automatically cleaning itself and as you leave, it scans your money wallet for a valid credit card and charges your bank account for what you have eaten?

Now... the question is: "Are you really going to accept any of this as 'fact'?"

Of course not!

We wouldn't believe a new car is made from flying junk; chairs don't fall down from exploding trees; earthquakes don't produce computers and unfortunately blasting burgers don't rain down on us from above!

So how comes we don't challenge a theory of something coming from nothing and then colliding in the cosmos to make the universe?

Is it because of its tremendous magnitude? Or is it because we understand so little about it, that we are willing to accept a theory telling us that it came from 'nothingness'?



Or is it really just a case of some gases colliding and then. . . 'Poof!' + 'Magic!' + 'Abracadabra!' = Instant Universe?

How? Could it really happen like this? Of course not.

Let's look ourselves as an example:

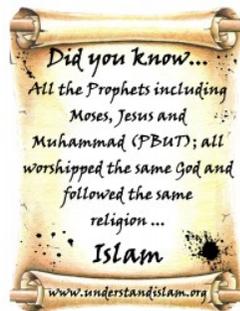
- An adult is made up of approximately 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms which have been formed together to create the perfect human body—we can walk, talk, eat, sleep, breathe etc, with ease.
- This adult body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels. To put that into perspective; the distance around the earth is about 25,000 miles, making the distance our blood vessels could travel, if laid end to end, more than two times around the earth.
- Yet each drop of blood inside this vessel contains about 10,000 white blood cells and 250,000 platelets.
- Our eye can distinguish about 10 million different colours.
- We have more bacteria in our mouth than there are people in the world.
- Every day, our heart creates enough energy to drive a truck for 20 miles (32 km).
- If uncoiled, the DNA in all the cells within our body would stretch 10 billion miles – that's from here to the planet Pluto and back.



There are so many more amazing facts like this concerning not just ourselves but

(e) Finally, the angels (such as Gabriel PBUH) are the servants and agents of God. They are created by God, and are therefore not divine and should not be worshipped either.

2). The Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected. God makes it clear in the Quran: "And they did not kill him (Jesus), nor did they crucify him" (Quran 4:157). Jesus did not die on the cross and instead ascended to the heavens.



3). Christians believe in the concept of the "Original Sin" which means that humans are born as sinners because they bear the burden of the "Original Sin" of Adam and Eve (PBUT). Muslims do not believe in the "Original Sin" for two main reasons:

(a) In the Quran, God forgave Adam (PBUH).

(b) According to the Quran, no one should be made to bear the burden of someone else's sin or mistake because it is unfair.

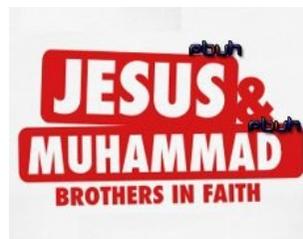
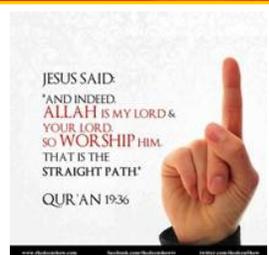
Muslims believe in the Gospel so why don't we follow it?

It is well known that Jesus (PBUH) spoke either Aramaic or Hebrew. Yet the Bible was initially written in Greek and then later translated into Latin, English and various other languages.

The Bible includes the Old and New Testament, but it has been changed so many times, that it is now difficult to determine which words are the words of God and which are of man.

The Quran was revealed to confirm the original messages given to Jesus and remains unchanged – its core message is to worship God alone and to follow the religion of all the prophets (PBUH).

This message and religion is Islam.



In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

What Is The Islamic View On Jesus? Peace Be Upon Him

Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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Jesus and Islam:

In Islam, Jesus (PBUH) is a prophet of God. Muslims love and believe in Jesus, as well as all the other prophets such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, John (the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUT) as they all worshipped the same God. God refers to this in the Quran:



Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who submit to Him (God alone))." (Quran 3:84)

A Muslim is someone who believes in God alone. God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything, and hence, Jesus, John (the Baptist) and Zekaria, and Mary (PBUT) along with the disciples were all Muslims who believed in and submitted to God. God refers to this when Jesus (PBUH) states:

"Indeed, I am the servant of Allah (God). He has given me the Scripture (Gospel) and made me a prophet" (Quran 19:30).



What do Muslims believe concerning Jesus Christ (PBUH)?

Muslims believe that Jesus was born through the Virgin birth by Mary (PBUT):

In the Quran God states that when Mary received the glad tidings of a child, she asked the Angel Gabriel (PBUT):

"How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste?" He replied, "Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed.'" (Quran 19:20-21)

Muslims believe in the prophet John (the Baptist):

John was the son of Zekaria and the cousin of Jesus (PBUT): "O Zechariah, indeed We give you good tidings of a boy whose name will be John." (Quran 19:7)

Jesus was given the divine book of Gospel by God:

"And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah; and We gave him the Gospel." (Quran 5:46)

Jesus performed many miracles. God refers to this in the Quran:

"O Jesus the son of Mary! Recount My favour to you and to your mother. Remember! I strengthened you with the Holy Spirit (the angel Gabriel) so that you did speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Remember! I taught you the Book and Wisdom, (and gave you) the Torah and the Gospel. And remember: you make out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My permission, and you breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by My permission, and you heal those born blind, and the lepers by My permission. And remember! You bring forth the dead by My permission..." (Quran 5:110)



So what is the difference between Islam and Christianity?

Christians share similar beliefs to Muslims concerning many of the key events which occurred during the life of Jesus (PBUH). However, there are three key differences:

1). Today, most Christians believe in the Trinity, meaning that God has three forms: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost/ Spirit. However, the concept of the trinity was not adopted by Christianity until the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

Some of the early Christians were Unitarians. Even today, there are Christian Unitarian churches which do not accept the Trinity. Notable Rationalist Unitarians include thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson (American); scientists such as Isaac Newton (British); as well as famous figures such as Florence Nightingale (British) in nursing and Humanitarianism; Charles Dickens (British) in literature; and Frank Lloyd Wright (American) in architecture.

In Islam:

(a) The Trinity is totally rejected. Jesus (PBUH) is neither a God, nor the Son of God (in the literal sense). Jesus (PBUH) was a human prophet and not divine. Muslims worship God alone: He is the one and only Creator of the universe.

(b) This God (the Quran refers to as Allah) is the God and creator of Jesus (PBUH) and is the same God that Jesus (PBUH) in the current Bible refers to as Father and used to pray to.

(c) Muslims consider Mohammad, Moses, and Jesus (PBUT) as prophets and messengers sent by God ("messengers" is a term that refers to prophets (PBUT) who brought Holy Scriptures to their people as a message from God). These prophets (PBUT) were human beings; they were not divine and should not be worshipped directly or indirectly.

(d) Muslims believe that each human being can be called a son or daughter of God because he or she was created by God. So there is nothing special or divine about Jesus (PBUH) being called son of God; and therefore Jesus (PBUH) should not be worshipped.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his small group of followers endured persecution for 13 years in Mecca. Eventually, they were forced to leave and migrate to Medina, a city whose people eagerly welcomed them.

Here, Muhammad (PBUH) established the very first Islamic society which eliminated the spiritual and social problems rampant in the Arabian Peninsula.

Freedom of religion was instituted in Medina; women were honoured and respected as equals; racial discrimination was practically eliminated; tribal warfare was replaced with united ties of brotherhood; usury and alcohol were completely forbidden.

By the end of his life in 622 C.E, the powerful teachings of Islam had overcome even its most ardent enemies. Convinced by the truth of Muhammad (PBUH)'s message and inspired by the purity of his character, the entire Arabian Peninsula had embraced Islam.

Muhammad (PBUH): The Legacy

In the century following Muhammad (PBUH)'s death, Islam expanded in all directions, absorbing the Persian and Byzantine Empires to the North, reaching as far as Spain in the West, and extending its borders to include parts of India and China to the East.

This rapid spread of Islam and its call towards the worship of One God and peace, in such a short period of time, has caused many to marvel at how a man with a sublime character and simple message, could produce such an astonishing impact on the world.

This impact is felt to this day with over a quarter of the world's population following the message of Islam, and with more everyday accepting and embracing the faith.

Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet in a long line of prophets (PBUT) who were all sent by the same God to remind people about their Creator and Maker. God refers to this in the Quran and states:



“O you who have believed, believe in Allah (God) and His Messenger (Muhammad PBUH) and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.” (Quran 4:136)

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

Who Is Muhammad?

Peace Be Upon Him

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Hammad Abdur Rehman

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Muhammad (PBUH), the final prophet of Islam, is widely considered one of the most influential men in history. Islam is currently the fastest growing religion in the world today, and nearly one quarter of the world's population follows the message he (PBUH) delivered.

Yet, despite Muhammad (PBUH)'s lasting influence, many misconceptions continue to surround his persona and teachings. In this article we will briefly explain the message he delivered and his biography (PBUH).

Muhammad (PBUH): His Message

In Islam, all the prophets including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, John (the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUH) all worshipped the same God. God refers to this in the Quran:



Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who) submit to Him (God alone)." (Quran 3:84)

Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet sent by this same God. God was always there from the very beginning and will always be there. He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything around us; including us. He was never created and will never die.

Sleep and tiredness never inflicts Him, and it is through His Kindness, Might, Power, Mercy, Love and Patience that he effortlessly provides for His Creation every day and every second; both in this world and the next.

Islam invites people to recognise and worship our Creator and Maker - God.

Muhammad (PBUH): The Man

Muhammad (PBUH) was born in 570 C.E. in Mecca. He was orphaned at a young age; his father died before his birth, followed by his mother six years later. Muhammad (PBUH)'s grandfather, and then his uncle, cared for him for the remainder of his youth. As a result, no single figure moulded Muhammad (PBUH)'s beliefs and outlook on life from an early age.

As a young boy, he worked as a shepherd. This was significant, as he stated much later when asked by Jabir (RDA) that "...there was no prophet who was not a shepherd" (Bukhari). Muhammad (PBUH) then adopted the premier Arab occupation of trading and was widely respected for his integrity, trustworthiness and sincerity.

However, despite his intelligence, he could not read or write, nor was he skilled in composing poetry; a hallmark of Arab society. Therefore, the claim that Muhammad

(PBUH) authored the Quran is unfounded. To this effect, God declares in the Quran:

"Your companion (Muhammad (PBUH) has not strayed; he is not deluded; he does not speak from his own desire. It is not but a revelation revealed (unto him)." (Quran 53: 2-4)



Prior to prophethood, Muhammad (PBUH) was greatly regarded for his superior character and exceptional manners, earning him the title of the 'Truthful One.' Meccans entrusted him with their possessions for safekeeping and he was often asked to mediate disputes as an impartial judge.

At the same time, Muhammad (PBUH) detested the polytheistic Arab customs and did not participate in idolatry. He was also deeply bothered by the many social evils in Arabia, such as the ill treatment of women, widespread alcoholism, constant warfare and the subjugation of the poor. He often escaped the atmosphere of Mecca to a cave outside of the city, isolating himself for days at a time in meditation.

Although Muhammad (PBUH)'s pre-prophetic life was highly reputable, it does not indicate that he was poised to make any significant worldly impact. Yet, these life experiences and the development of his character were God's way of preparing Muhammad (PBUH) for the monumental task ahead.

Muhammad (PBUH): The Prophet

One night, in the year 610 C.E., God sent the Angel Gabriel with revelation to Muhammad (PBUH). This was one of the most significant events in human history. It marked the beginning of his prophethood and transformed his life entirely. As the prophet of God receiving divine inspiration, all his endeavours henceforth were devoted to leading humanity back to the pure worship of God. He led an earnest life based on the most sublime values, initiating tremendous changes in Arabia and beyond.

Whereas earlier he removed himself from the social and spiritual corruption in Mecca, he now proactively worked to reform it. Muhammad (PBUH) called his fellow Meccans to cease their worship of idols and to affirm the Oneness of God; he also invited them to live a life of righteousness and piety.

He warned them of an afterlife where they will be held accountable for their earthly deeds and also gave joyful news of paradise to those who believed and lived a God-conscious life. Like previous prophets, Muhammad (PBUH)'s message was rejected by many of his people. They insisted on maintaining the religious and social customs of their ancestors.

The elite mocked Muhammad (PBUH), accusing him of deceit and madness – the same man whom they had freely trusted and honoured before. Only a few people believed in him, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, who were attracted to his message due to its emphasis on equality and justice.

For all three prophets (PBUT), eating swine (pork) was prohibited:

- God ordered Moses: "And the swine...is unclean to you." (Leviticus 11:7).
- Jesus was born into a Jewish family and we can hence presume that he never ate swine (pig) during his life. There are no historical transcripts which confirm otherwise.
- Muslims similarly do not eat swine: "He has forbidden you only dead animals, and blood, and the swine, and that which is slaughtered as a sacrifice for other than God." (Quran 2:173)



All three prophets (PBUT) prohibited their followers from bowing to statues/images:

- "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 26:1)
- "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them." (Corinthians 10:10). Many Christians today kneel before the statue of Christ.
- Muslims do not bow to statues, images or anything except God: "And it was already revealed to you and to those before you that if you worship anything along with Allah (God), your (good) deeds would surely become worthless, and you would surely be among the losers." (Quran 39:65).

More similarities between the three prophets (PBUT) can be found on our website.

To summarise:

In Islam, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT) were all sent by the same God to call their people to worship Him alone. He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything. Muslims recognise and submit to this God alone. It is up to Him as to whomsoever He chooses as His prophets:

"Allah chooses of His messengers whom He wills, so believe in Allah and His messengers. And if you believe and fear Him, then for you is a great reward." (Quran 3:179).

The Jews rejected Jesus (PBUH). The Christians rejected Muhammad (PBUH). The Muslims accept all three as they were all sent by the same God to deliver the same message...this message is to worship God alone...this message is Islam...and it is the only message which will be accepted by God.

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

Moses, Jesus & Muhammad

Peace Be Upon Them

3 Men, 1 God, 1 Religion...Islam?



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Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT): 3 men; 1 God; 1 Religion ... Islam?

Nobody has influenced religion more in the last three thousand years than Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT). Moses is revered in Judaism, Jesus (PBUT) is within Christianity and one in every four individuals is a Muslim on this planet.

However, in Islam, the three prophets (PBUT) are brothers within the same faith and highly respected. Why? Because they along with Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon, John (the Baptist) and the remaining prophets (PBUT) all worshipped and followed the same God and the same religion – this religion is Islam. This is why God states in the Quran:

Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who submit to Him (God alone))." (Quran 3:84)

Islam means to recognise and surrender to the Maker and Creator. God was always there from the very beginning and will always be there; He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything.

It is this same God who sent Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT) to their respected nations.

So who are Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT) in Islam?

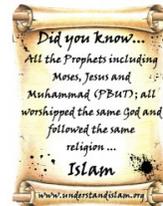
We've decided to briefly paraphrase some key Islamic beliefs concerning the three (PBUT).

Moses (PBUH) in Islam:

- Worshipped God alone and received the Torah.
- Was placed inside a basket on the Nile which ended up outside the Pharaoh's household, where he was raised.
- Conversated with God on Mount Sinai and warned the Pharaoh about the plagues which followed such as the flooding of the locusts, the lice and the frogs.
- Performed miracles by the will of God such as converting his staff into a snake, producing a glowing white hand and splitting the Dead Sea to cross to the other side by the will of God.

Jesus (PBUH) in Islam:

- Worshipped God alone and received the Gospel from God through the Angel Gabriel.
- Was born through the miraculous Virgin birth by Mary (PBUH).
- Was washed and bathed by the prophet John (PBUH).



- Performed miracles by the will of God such as healing the leper and giving life to a bird made from clay.

Muhammad (PBUH) in Islam:

- Worshipped God alone and received the Quran through the Angel Gabriel.
- Migrated from Makkah to Madinah.
- Performed miracles by the will of God such as splitting the moon, feeding his companions through a bag and visiting the heavens.

What are some of the common similarities between Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT)?

Despite the fact that the Bible has undergone various changes, one can still find similar practises between the three prophets (PBUT). We've listed a few of these below.

Please note that all biblical quotes have been taken from the King James' Bible version.

All three prophets (PBUT) worshipped God alone without any partners or children:

- The first of the Ten Commandments: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." (Exodus 20:2 and Deuteronomy 5:6)
- Whilst tempted by the devil, Jesus is quoted in the Gospel as reaffirming pure monotheism to him; "...it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:8)
- "And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord." (Mark 12:29)
- "Allah (God)...none has the right to be worshipped except Him alone; the Creator of all things." (Quran 6:102).

All three prophets (PBUT) prayed by bowing their heads to the ground:

- "And Abram (Abraham) fell on his face." (Genesis 17:3).
- "And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped." (Exodus 34:8).
- "Jesus...fell on his face, and prayed." (Matthew 26:39).
- Muslims do the same and bow in prayer. In The Quran Allah (God) states: "Those were the ones upon whom Allah (God) favoured from among the prophets of the descendants of Adam and of those who We carried (in the ship) with Noah, and of the descendants of Abraham and Israel, and of those whom We guided and chose. When the verses of the Most Merciful (God) were recited to them, they fell down on their faces weeping." (Quran 19:58)



In the eyes of God it is not about gender, race, nationality or ethnicity. Why? Because we have all been created to recognise the fact that there is a Creator who was there from the beginning and who sustains everything around us, including us.

Hence, regardless of gender, race, nationality or ethnicity, it is those who recognise their Creator, and try their best to be a good person and perform good actions that will have the highest statuses in paradise.

This is why God states in the Quran:

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may recognise one another. Yet, the most noble from among you in the sight of Allah (God) is the most righteous of you.” (Quran 49:13)

Conclusion:

Throughout history women have been subjected to inferior social norms, and treated as commodities to enhance some form of trade.

Over 1400 years ago Islam sought to change that and provide women with a status as an equal and respectable individual in the eyes of God and man.

Whilst the Western world has provided women with rights in the past century, in today's age, there are groups of men who still do violate the rights of women; yet, this is not just in Islam, but can be found across all faiths and cultures.

In Islam, women are seen and respected as individuals, wives and mothers, and the unjust treatment of women goes against the teachings of the faith and the commands of the Creator.

Hence, in Islam, women are not objects of commodities used to enhance products and trade – women are individuals and people who deserve respect; both in the eyes of God and men.

For more information on this topic or the hijab; please visit our website.

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*“And live with
them in kindness.”*

(Quran 4:19)

In the name of God,
the Most Kind, the
Most Merciful

Does Islam Really Oppress Women?

Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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How were women treated throughout history?

Throughout history, women were often regarded and treated as subordinates.

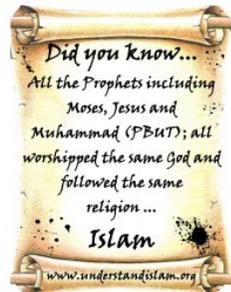
In India, "subjection was a cardinal principle" and "day and night, women" were "held by their protectors in a state of dependence" (The Encyclopaedia Britannica 1911 p.782).

In Greece, "Athenian women were always minors" who were "subject to some male" (Allen 1889 p.144).

Throughout the Roman Empire, and into early and middle Europe, women were seen as the property of men. According to "Roman Law a woman was, even in historic times, completely dependent" and "if married, she and her property passed into the power of her husband" (The Encyclopaedia Britannica 1911 p.782).

In America, even with the establishment of the Declaration of Independence which promoted equal opportunities and rights for all centred on the American Dream, "under contemporary American law derived from English common law, married women were considered legally united with their husbands, and all their legal rights were surrendered to their husbands" (Matsuda 1985 p.47-56).

Hence, throughout the world and different cultures, women were seen as inferior to men, of a lower status with little legal rights, and any possessions they had were immediately passed onto their husbands upon marriage.



What is the Islamic perspective on women?

Over 1400 years ago, Islam sought to change these perceptions.

Muslims recognise, believe and worship in One God alone, and believe in all the prophets including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, John (known as John the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUH), who also worshipped this same God alone.

God is the Creator of everything, and He is the One who has established certain rights and commands for both genders in Islam. Both genders are moral equals in God's sight, and both are expected to fulfil the same duties of worship which include the prayer, faith, almsgiving, fasting and pilgrimage to Mecca.

However, there are instances where rights centre specifically on men and women. Below are some common questions asked in regards to the rights of women in Islam:



What is the status of a mother in Islam?

The status of a mother in Islam is so high that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has said:

"Paradise lies at the feet of your mother" (i.e. in serving and obeying her) (Ahmad, An-Nasâ'i and Ibn Mâjah)



Furthermore, a man came to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and said,

"O Messenger of God! Who among the people is the most worthy of my good companionship (i.e. love)? The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Your mother." The man said, "Then who?" The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Then your mother." The man further asked, "Then who?" The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Then your mother." The man asked again, "Then who?" The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Then your father."" (Bukhari and Muslim).

What about forced marriage in Islam?



Forced marriage is forbidden in Islam.

Ibn Abbas (RDA) reported that a girl came to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and explained that her father had forced her to marry without her consent.

The prophet (PBUH) gave her the choice of either accepting the marriage or annulling it...(Ibn Hanbal). It is reported that the girl said; "actually, I accept this marriage but I wanted to let women know that parents have no right (to force a husband on them)." (Ibn Majah).

So how are men encouraged to treat their wives?

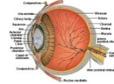
Men are encouraged to treat their wives with kindness. God states in the Quran for men to "... live with them in kindness." (Quran 4:19). The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said:



"The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character; and the best of you are those who are the best to their women." (Tirmidhi)

Is there equality between men and women in Islam?

Hence, Darwin (1859) himself momentarily confesses that for a complex organ such as an eye to have developed by itself is "absurd in the highest degree." No scientific factual explanation even begins to explain how something like the human eye could have been produced by time, chance, natural selection and mutation. Yet this is just one eye.



A baby needs a number of very complex interdependent systems to live and survive. These systems include the nervous, digestive, excretory, circulatory, skeletal, muscular and immune system; and for a baby to survive and live, each system requires all the other systems to be functioning. Therefore all these systems must be in operation at the same time and could not have evolved slowly over millions of years.

And what are the chances of an intricate male reproductive system coming about by time, chance and random mutation? It would need to be fully functional along the entire evolutionary timeline so that reproduction could continue.

And remember; this highly unlikely progression would be pointless unless the female reproductive system had also randomly evolved in perfect sync to compliment the developing male system so that they both worked in harmony over the millions of years of evolutionary refinement! Furthermore, this logic applies to all the other species on earth as well.

There is no evidence anywhere of the evolution of such systems. Moreover, no even hypothetical process can be thought of to explain how something like the brain and the digestive system could have evolved bit by bit over time!

Despite arguing otherwise, Richard Dawkins (2006 p.138), in his book 'The God Delusion', explains that: "...the odds of life originating spontaneously on a planet were a billion to one against..." According to Dawkins, the chance of life spontaneously occurring on a planet is a billion to one...but this only refers to the basic "origin of life." What are the chances of more complex organisms, molecular structures and biological systems appearing on Earth by themselves?

To conclude:



It must be stressed that Muslims support science and do not refute evolution on the condition that it does not go against the teachings of the Creator. However, when evolution argues that we descended from apes and everything appeared by itself; it is like saying that there was an explosion at a salvage yard, and all the metal pieces flew into the air, and then fell back down into one place and formed a brand new Lamborghini. When Darwinists insist that this notion of evolution is true and that we descended from apes; our response is... surely that's bananas!

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

"We Descended
From Apes..."
Surely That's Bananas!



Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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Please note; this article is a summary from our website. Please visit our site: www.understandislam.org for more information regarding this topic.

The predominant theory of evolution argues that everything within the universe appeared by itself, and evolved and developed over time through inorganic matter and chance.

This idea removes the powers from the Creator (God) and instead accepts and gives these creative powers to time, inorganic matter and chance – this goes against the religion of God and Islam (Yahya 1999).

Muslims reject this idea and question the following concerning Darwin's theory:

1. Where did God come from?

How did we learn about our Creator? Why did people begin to worship God when this has nothing to do with the 'survival of the fittest' notion? Evolutionist will argue that humans created the idea of a 'God'.

However, in Islam, this does not explain the fact that all the prophets including Moses, David, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUT) all worshipped the same God and called their people to worship Him too. Furthermore, many of the prophets performed various miracles such as the splitting of the sea by Moses, the Virgin Birth of Jesus by Mary and the feeding of a large army from a few dates by the prophet Muhammad (PBUT).

These are facts, and it is not just the religious texts which confirm these but also many written historical accounts – these were a part of the reason why so many people believed in their prophets and worshipped God.

2. How did the universe appear?

In his book, titled "The Grand Design", Steven Hawking (2010, cited in Lennox 2010) famously claimed that:
"...because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing."

Hence, according to Hawking, it is the laws of physics and not the will of God, which provide the real explanation as to how the universe and life first appeared on Earth.

Yet the universe we live in is indescribably vast and is known to be made up of 50,000,000,000 galaxies. Is it really possible that all of this appeared by itself?

Dr John Lennox (2010), Professor in Mathematics at Oxford University responds to Hawking and explains:
"Professor Stephen Hawking believes the laws of physics were behind the



creation of the universe, not God. That is a confusion of category. The laws of physics can explain how the jet engine works, but someone had to build the thing, put in the fuel and start it up...how did gravity exist in the first place? Who put it there? And what was the creative force behind its birth?"

According to the laws of science, something cannot appear from nothing. Hence, there had to be a Creator that started the universe.

3. How did life first appear on earth?

Evolutionists argue that inanimate (non-living) matter must have produced one living cell by coincidence and chance, and this theory is described as 'spontaneous generation.' However, this theory has been strongly rejected by modern biologists and great evolutionists such as the Russian biologist Alexander Oparin, dubbed the Darwin of the 20th century, and the American chemist Stanley Miller, who both experimented to try and prove that a living cell could originate by coincidence and chance, but failed (Yahya 1999).

They admitted their failure; Oparin in "Origin of Life" and Stanley Miller in "Molecular Evolution of life." Jeffery Bada in his book "Earth" (cited in Yahya 1999) states in regards to this theory that:

"We still face the biggest unsolved problem that we had when we entered the twentieth century: how did life originate on earth?"

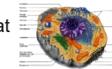
The conditions required for the formation of just one cell are too great in quantity to be explained by accident or coincidence because the DNA molecule is so complex. Yet, it is estimated that an organism such as an adult human could be made of between 10-100 trillions living cells. Science is struggling to factually prove how just one living cell appeared on the Earth.

So what are the chances of all of these living cells appearing by chance, and then coming together to form such complicated structures such as a human being?

4. How did complex organisms, molecular structures and biological systems first appear on Earth?

Organisms such as animals, plants and humans are composed of complex molecular structures such as proteins, and many organisms contain biological systems such as a respiratory system or digestive system which enables them to breathe and process food.

Darwin (1859 pp.171-172) acknowledges that there are organs which are of "extreme perfection and complication", and when describing the eye, he explains:
"To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree."



Furthermore, if the Prophet (PBUH) saw any animal over-burdened or ill fed he would speak mildly to the owner and say, "Fear God in your treatment of animals." (Abu Dawood).

Subsequently, in Islam, the rules pertaining to slaughtering animals are very strict and fixed. Protecting animals from pain and undue suffering is paramount.

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said; "God has ordained kindness (and excellence) in everything. If the killing (of animals) is to be done, do it in the best manner and when you slaughter, do it in the best manner by first sharpening the knife and putting the animal at ease" (Muslim).

Islam vs Terrorism:

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that; "the Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the people are safe" (An Nasa'i).

Unfortunately, we have seen in parts of the world, that this is no longer the case.

Innocent lives have been taken in the name of Islam, despite the fact that Islam opposes the killing of any innocent person or animal.

It must be stressed, that despite such terrorist acts wrongly committed in the name of Islam, Islam itself is a religion of mercy, which helps people to not only recognise their Creator but to also find contentment and inner peace inside of themselves.



This is why God states in the Quran:

"Verily, only in the remembrance of Allah (God) will your hearts find peace." (Quran 13:28)

Hence, despite the public portrayals and links between Islam and terror in the media and the internet, it must be made clear that Islam is a religion which condemns the killing of innocent lives and invites people towards peace.

The fact that most Muslims living on the globe behave in a peaceful manner reflects this notion.

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

Islam VS Terrorism

Compiled & Written By
Hammad Abdur Rehman

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Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. Yet with the recent spate of global terror attacks, it has also become one of the most misunderstood.

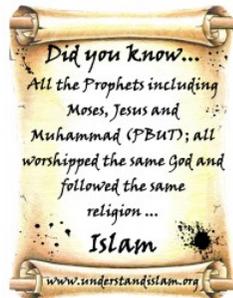
In this article we explain some of the key points which have led to the word 'terror' becoming associated with the faith.

Yet before we do so, let's first briefly look at what Islam is.



What is Islam?

Islam means to surrender and worship One God alone and to recognise God as the Maker and Creator of everything. He was there from the beginning and will always be there.



All the prophets, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, John (known as John the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUH) worshipped this same God and followed the same faith... Islam.

Is Islam a religion of peace?

If Islam was truly a religion of terror and not peace; then why do most Muslims oppose terror and behave in a peaceful manner?

The word Islam means to submit or surrender by acknowledging that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah (God) alone. However, the word "Islam" is also closely related to the word "salaam" or "silm" which means peace.

Hence, despite the public links in the media and internet between Islam and terrorism; the religion of Islam actually promotes and encourages the notion of peace.

Was the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) a peaceful person?

Muhammad (PBUH) himself had a very peaceful nature, and was extremely tolerant and highly protective of the non-Muslim minorities living in the Muslim state. God refers to this kind nature in the Quran:

“O Messenger of Allah! It is a great Mercy of God that you are kind and gentle towards them; for, had you been harsh and hard-hearted, they would all have broken away from you.” (Quran 3:159)

Aisha (PBUH) also reaffirmed this notion and said regarding the prophet Muhammad

(PBUH) that; “He would not follow an evil with an evil; rather he would pardon and forgive.” (Ahmad).

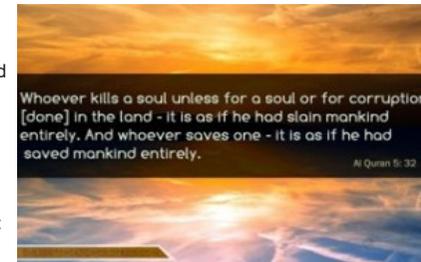
However, there are times when states find war inevitable and the prophet (PBUH) sometimes had to fight for the survival of his people and message – verses in the Quran regarding war were sometimes revealed in regards to this.

Yet, once their security was ensured, the prophet (PBUH) immediately reverted to peace and diplomacy.

What is the Islamic view on the value of life and terror?

In today's age, we have seen innocent lives taken through acts of terrorism which have been committed in the name of Islam. Islam strictly condones such acts and the killing of innocent lives.

In Islam, the sacredness and sanctity of life has been highlighted towards both humans and animals:



What is the value of one human life in Islam?

God refers to the sacredness of life in the Quran when He states:

“Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely.” (Quran 5:32)

In Islam life is so sacred, that the murder of one innocent life equates to the murder of the whole of mankind. Similarly, the saving of one life is similar to that of saving the whole of mankind.

Hence, the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said; “Whoever killed an innocent person shall not smell the scent of paradise.” (Bukhari).

How does Islam encourage people to treat animals?

It is not just the life of people that is valuable in Islam but such value is also extended towards animals.

The people asked the prophet Muhammad (PBUH); “Is there a reward for us in serving (the) animals?” He (PBUH) replied; “Yes, there is a reward for serving any inanimate (living thing).” (Bukhari).