

Islam

Part 2

- **Articles of Faith**
- **Five Pillars of Islam**
- **Holidays**
- **Shared beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and Islam**

What are the articles of faith (Islamic values)?

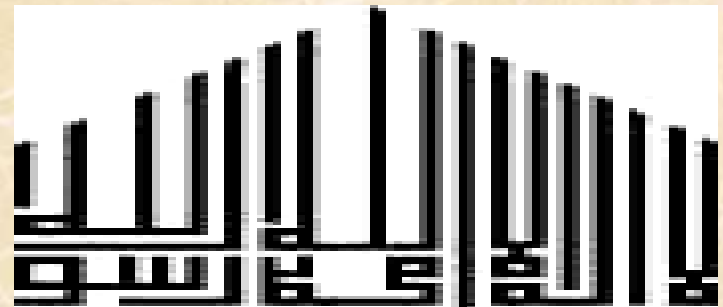
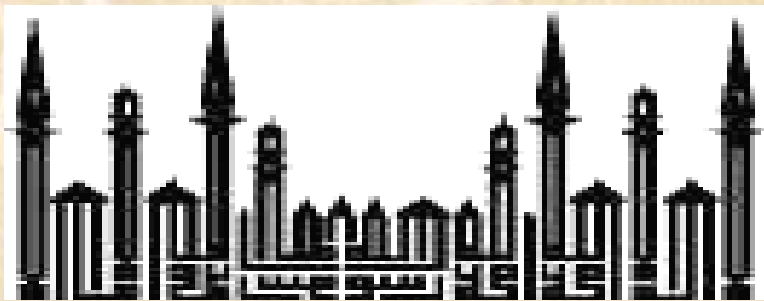
- **sanctity of life**
- **sanctity of religious freedom**
- **sanctity of mind and intellect**
- **sanctity of property and wealth**
- **sanctity of personal honor**

What are the “five pillars” of Islam?

- 1. Declaration (Shahadeh):**
- 2. Prayer (Salāt):**
- 3. Fasting (Siyam):**
- 4. Giving to the Poor (Zakat):**
- 5. Pilgrimage (Haj):**

1. Declaration (Shahadeh):

Since Islam is a monotheistic religion, i.e. Muslims believe in only one God, each Muslim declares that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is his final prophet. Islam recognizes the prophethood of Jesus, Moses, Abraham, Noah, etc.



2. Prayer (Salāt):

Muslims perform ritual prayer five times per day.

3. Fasting (Siyam):

During the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar, Ramadan, Muslims who are old enough and healthy enough fast for 29 or 30 days from sun-up to sun-down.

4. Giving to the Poor (Zakat):

It is incumbent upon every Muslim to donate a certain portion of his or her earnings to the less fortunate.



5. Pilgrimage (Haj):

Each Muslim should make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in his or her lifetime if he or she has the means to do so.



Which Holidays do Muslims celebrate?

Strictly speaking, the only holidays, which are considered “religious”, are **Ramadan**, **Eid Al-Fitr** and **Eid Al-Adha**. The holidays of **Laylat Al-Isra wa Al-Miraj** (The night journey and ascension) and **Laylat Al-Qadr** (the night of power) are celebrated in various ways throughout the Muslim world, while the Prophet’s birthday, **Mawlud Al-Nabi** is celebrated according to local custom in some regions and not in others. Many Muslims would respond: “We do not celebrate the Prophet’s birthday. He was after all, just a man.”

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim year, is the holiest, for it is the month "in which the Qur'an was revealed for the guidance of mankind." It is a month of seclusion, generosity and charity. It is the annual period of personal and spiritual renewal. Ramadan is also a joyful month. The daily fast is broken at sunset with a meal called *iftar*. Two hours before sunrise, Muslims have an early light meal called *suhur*.

Eid Al-Fitr is the feast/ festival that marks the end of the month of Ramadan

Eid Al-Adha, or Feast of the Sacrifice, commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael, in obedience to God. This feast is part of the Hajj (pilgrimage), and takes place in the 10th of Dhu Al-Hijja of the Islamic calendar.



Shared Beliefs of the Judaism, Christianity and Islam

- All three religions are “monotheistic.”
- The Middle East is the birthplace of all three.
- Many individuals and places sacred to Jews and Christians are equally sacred to Muslims.
- Accept the Ten Commandments as a law code.
- Accept the story of Adam and Eve as part of their tradition.
- Have a creation story about God creating the universe out of nothing.
- They are universal in scope, claiming to transcend differences of race, ethnicity, nationality, and color.

Shared Beliefs of the Judaism, Christianity and Islam

- All three faiths make absolute claims to perfect truth about God. In this way they resemble most religions founded on divine revelation.
- They all believe in the sacred Rock in Jerusalem, where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son.
- Arabs are descendent from Abraham, prophet and father of the Jews (and Christians)
- John the Baptist and Jesus are accepted and revered to by Moslems as prophets.
- The Events of the Day of Judgment will occur in Jerusalem.
- The need for total submission to God's will.
- The clash of Good and Evil.