

ISLAM 2:
PRINCIPLES and PILGRIMAGE

ISLAM: The BASIC PRINCIPLES

Islam = “submission” (coming from the Semitic word for “peace”)

Moslem / Muslim = “one who submits” to Allah (that is, makes peace with Him)

Qur’an / Koran = “The Recitation” > the teachings of God
revealed to Mohammed / Muhammad

Hadith = “traditions”
-a collection of Mohammed’s sayings, actions and judgments (mostly in Medina)

Articles of Faith

The Moslem faithful must believe in :

- Allah, who is the only god
- the angels, including the Archangel Gabriel
- the Prophets, including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jesus, Mohammed
- the sacred books (ie. the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Koran)
- the Qadar, God’s redemptive plan for all of humanity
- the Resurrection on the Last Day of Judgment

The Five Pillars of Islam

The religious duties of all Moslems:

- 1) The profession of faith [*shahada*]
“There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.”
- 2) The obligation of the 5 daily prayers [*salat*]
- 3) Giving alms to the poor [*zakat*]
- 4) Ritual fasting during Ramadan [*sawm*]
- 5) Pilgrimage to Mecca [*hajj*]

- 6) The holy war (Jihad)

Islamic Pilgrimage Rites

- the *ihram* (clothing)
 - the *kiswah* (covering of the Ka'aba)

 - circumambulation of the Ka'aba shrine (*Tawaf*)
 - the running and drinking from the well of Zamzam (*Sa'y*)
to Mina
 - the standing on Mt. Arafat (*Wuquf*)
Muzdalifah
 - the casting of stones at 3 pillars (*rami al-jamarat*)
 - final circumambulation
 - animal sacrifices and celebration
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“Islam proclaims a practical synthesis of Judaism and Christianity for all humanity. Overcoming the incompleteness of the justice of Judaism and of the idealistic love of Christianity, Islam brings to fulfillment all that Judaism and Christianity anticipated. For the Muslim, Islam is perfected Judaism and perfected Christianity.”

Islam is the PRIMAL religion > everyone is born a Muslim.

Islam is the UNIVERSAL religion > it overcomes the limitations of Judaism and Christianity to reconcile all humanity to God.

Islam is the FINAL religion > Mohammed is the “Seal of the Prophets”, because no more divine revelations are necessary.

MECCA

- the Quran Gate
- the Albraj al-Bait Tower (Clock Tower)

The SUCCESSION CRISIS

ALI / Ali ibn Abi Talib (c. 600 - 661 AD / CE)

= “God’s Favor Upon His Face”

622 -migration to Yathrib = MEDINA

623 -marriage to Mohammed’s daughter, FATIMA bint Muhammad
| (c. 605 / 615 - 632)
-Hasan and Husayn

624 -the Battle of Badr

625 -the Battle of Uhud

627 -the Battle of the Trench

“There is no brave youth except Ali
and there is no sword which renders service except Zulfiqar”

Ali, “the Lion of God”

630 -the submission of the city of Mecca

632 -Mohammed’s final pilgrimage to Mecca
-the saying at Ghadir Khumm: “Ali is as close to you, as I”

Three Goddesses

Al’Lat -the Mother

Al’Uzza -the Mighty One

Al’Menat -the Goddess of Fate and Time

Death of Mohammed (632 AD)

Contenders for succession :

CALIPH = the successor

-advisors to Mohammed: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman

-SUNNI / “traditionalists”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be the wisest

-family of Mohammed: Ali (married to Fatima / they have 2 sons)

-SHIA (Shiat Ali) or Shi’ites / the “partisans of Ali”

-the *caliph* (successor) should be a kinsman

The First CALIPHS

Abu Bakr (r. 632 – 634)

-Muslim invasion of Mesopotamia (Iraq)

Umar (r. 634 – 644)

-Muslim invasion of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire)

-Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho; etc. (639)

-Syria and western Persia (640)

-Alexandria and Egypt (642)

-founding of CAIRO

-invasion of Persia (643)

Uthman (r. 644 – 656)

-invasion of North Africa and Libya (651)

-conquest of the Vandal Kingdom