

Islam

Holy Text

The holy text of Islam is the Qu'ran, which is believed to be the word of God delivered to Muhammad during the ninth month of the lunar calendar, later becoming Ramadan.

5 Pillars of Islam

1. Shahada – There is one God who gave his work through the Prophet Muhammad
2. Salat – To pray five times a day
3. Zakat – To give to those who are in need
4. Sawm – To fast from food and water during the daytime during Ramadan (ninth month)
5. Haj – to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if possible

Jihad

Typically referred to by western media as a call to violence, Jihad *actually* refers to one's struggle, internal or external.

Similarities with Other Major Religions

Islam recognizes most of the same prophets of other major Abrahamic religions. Islam recognizes Abraham, Noah, Moses, and even Jesus, though only as a prophet. These similarities continue as many of the passages are the same. The key distinction comes from the view of Mohammad as the final prophet.

Holidays

In Islam, there are two major holidays, *Eid al Adha* and *Eid al Fitr*. *Eid al Adha* is at the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca, and *Eid al Fitr* is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar calendar.

Population

There are about 1.2 billion Muslims in the world. There are around 6 million in the United States. Pakistan is among the largest Islamic population.

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