

# Introduction to Islam

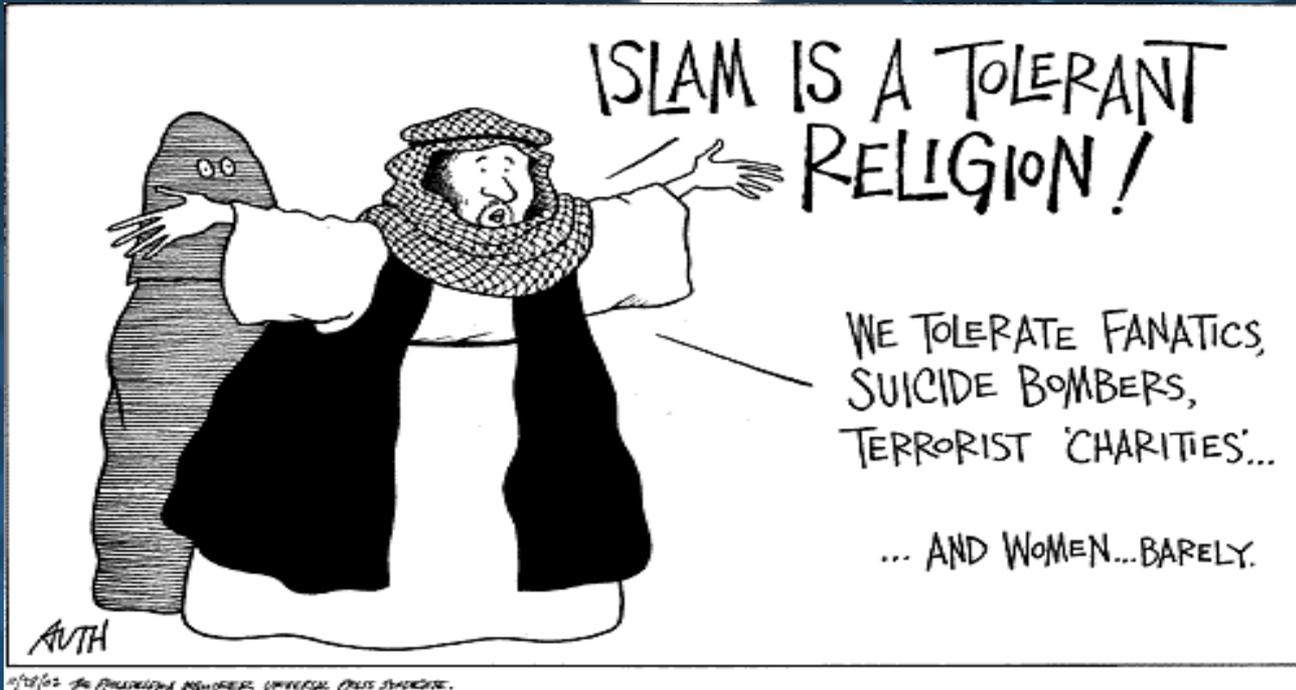


# How would a Muslim answer WV questions?

1. What is prime reality - the really real?
2. What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person at death?
5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
7. What is the meaning of human history?

# Jihad and Non-Muslims

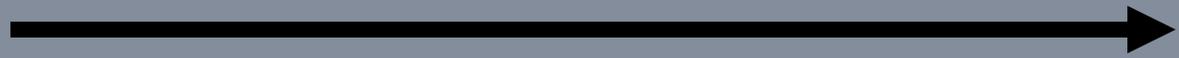
- (9:5) “Fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleager them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem.”
- (9:29) “Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Prophet, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the jizyah with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.”



# Who brought down Flight 1549 over the Hudson?



# Animism



1500<sub>BC</sub>

1440

660

600

563



30<sub>AD</sub>

622

1823

1879

Hinduism

Judaism

Shinto

Taoism

Buddhism

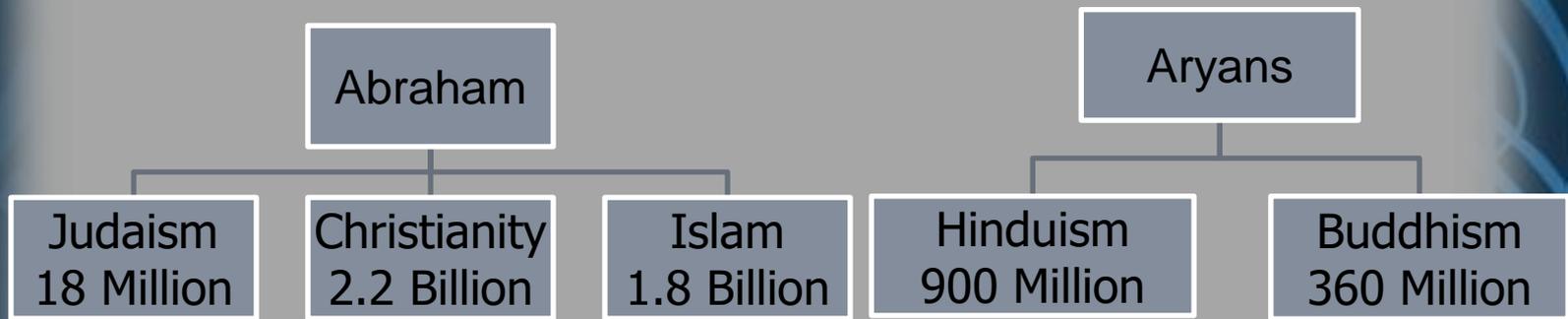
Christianity

Islam

Mormonism

Jehovah's Witnesses

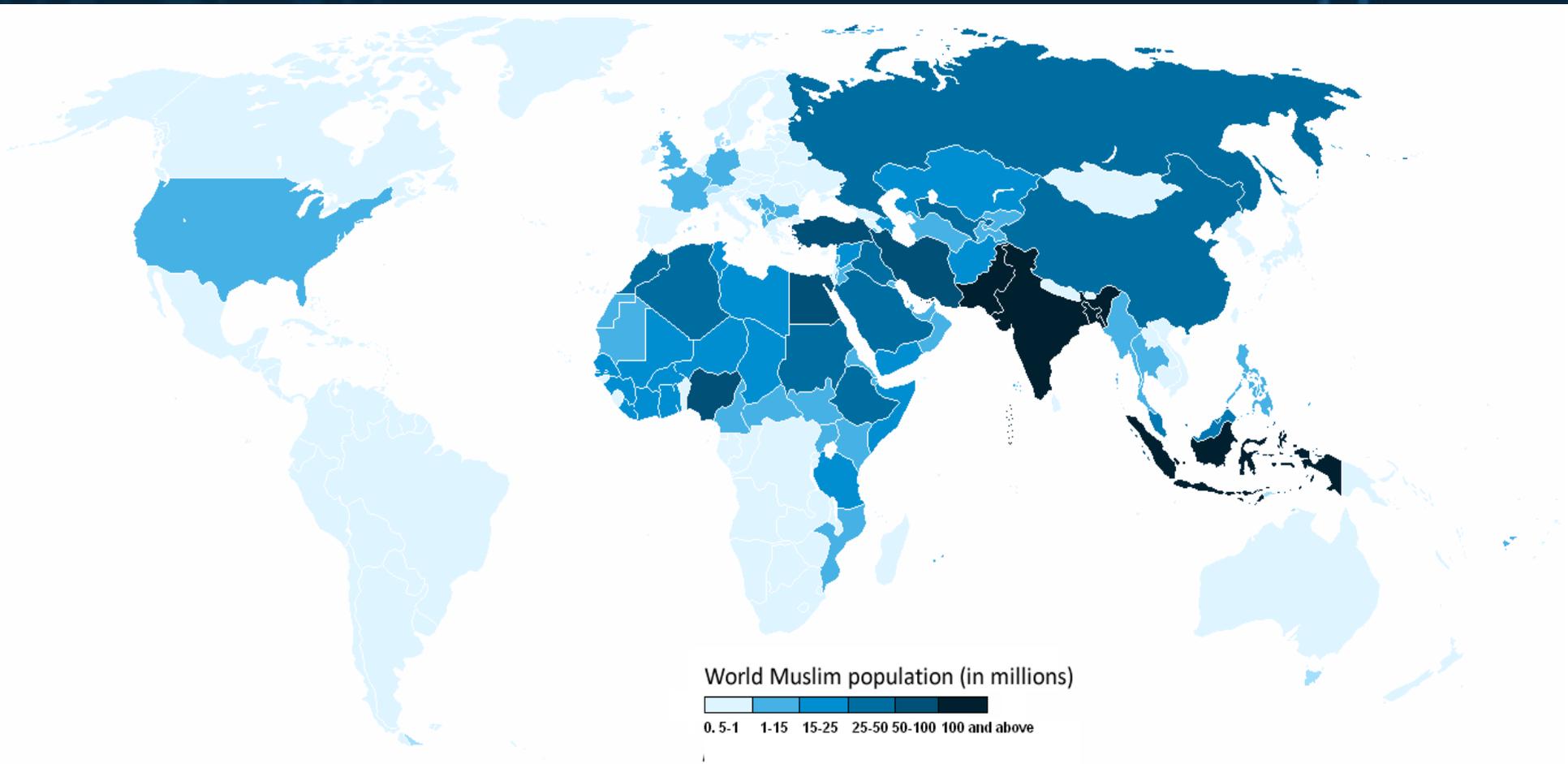
# World Religions



# Most Populous Islamic Countries

1. Indonesia – 227 million
2. Pakistan – 204 million
3. India – 189 million
4. Bangladesh – 149 million
5. Nigeria – 95 million
6. Egypt – 87 million
7. Iran – 81 million
8. Turkey – 80 million
9. Algeria – 41 million
10. Sudan – 40 million

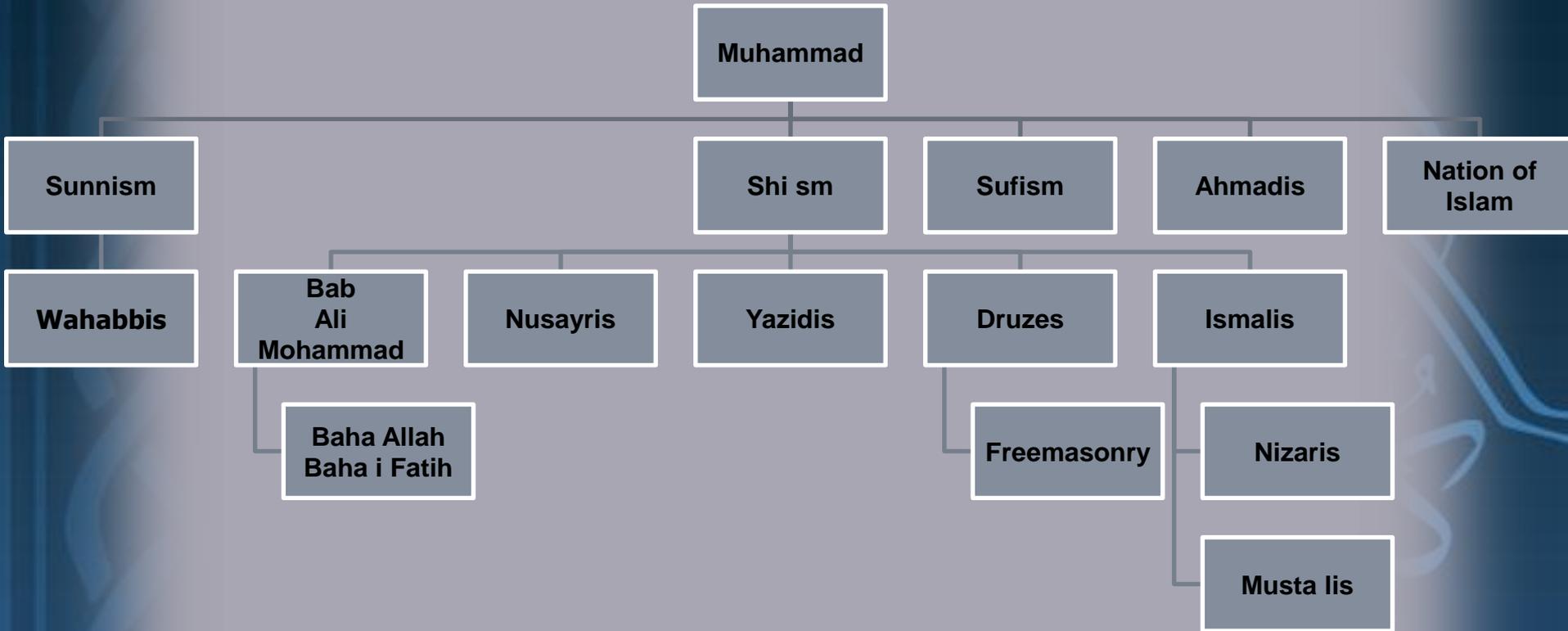
# World Population



# Primary Groups: Sunni and Shia

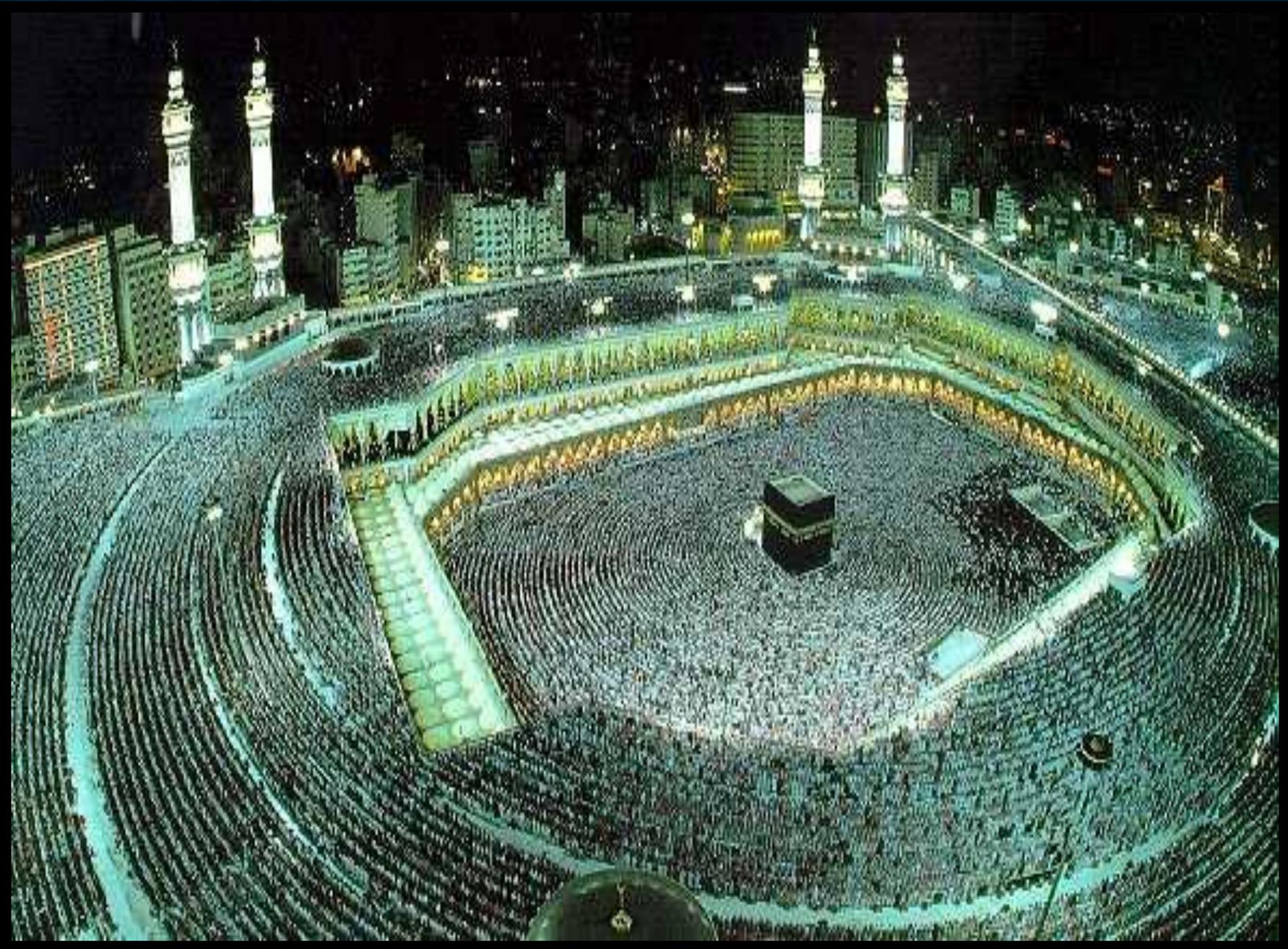


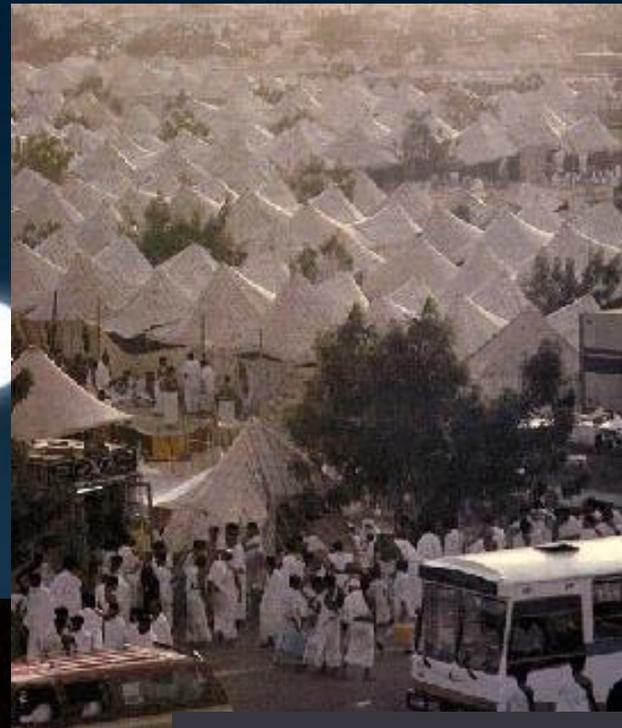
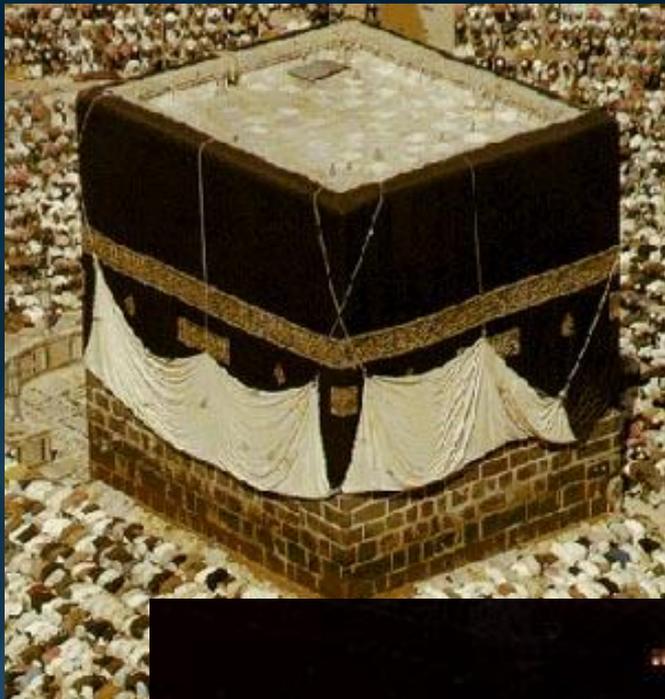
# Islam





**Al-Haram Mosque Holds the Kaaba**





I went home radiant with hope and joy, for I have fulfilled the command to humankind to undertake the pilgrimage. Above all, I return praying that it might please Allah, to find my Hajj acceptable, and may what the Prophet (s.a.w.) said be true of my own journey: "There is no reward for a pious pilgrimage but Paradise."





# Mosque of the Prophet in Medina





**Dome of the Rock in  
Jerusalem:  
Where Muhammad  
Ascended into Heaven**

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

**There is no deity except Allah (the One and Only God), Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.**

# The Five Pillars

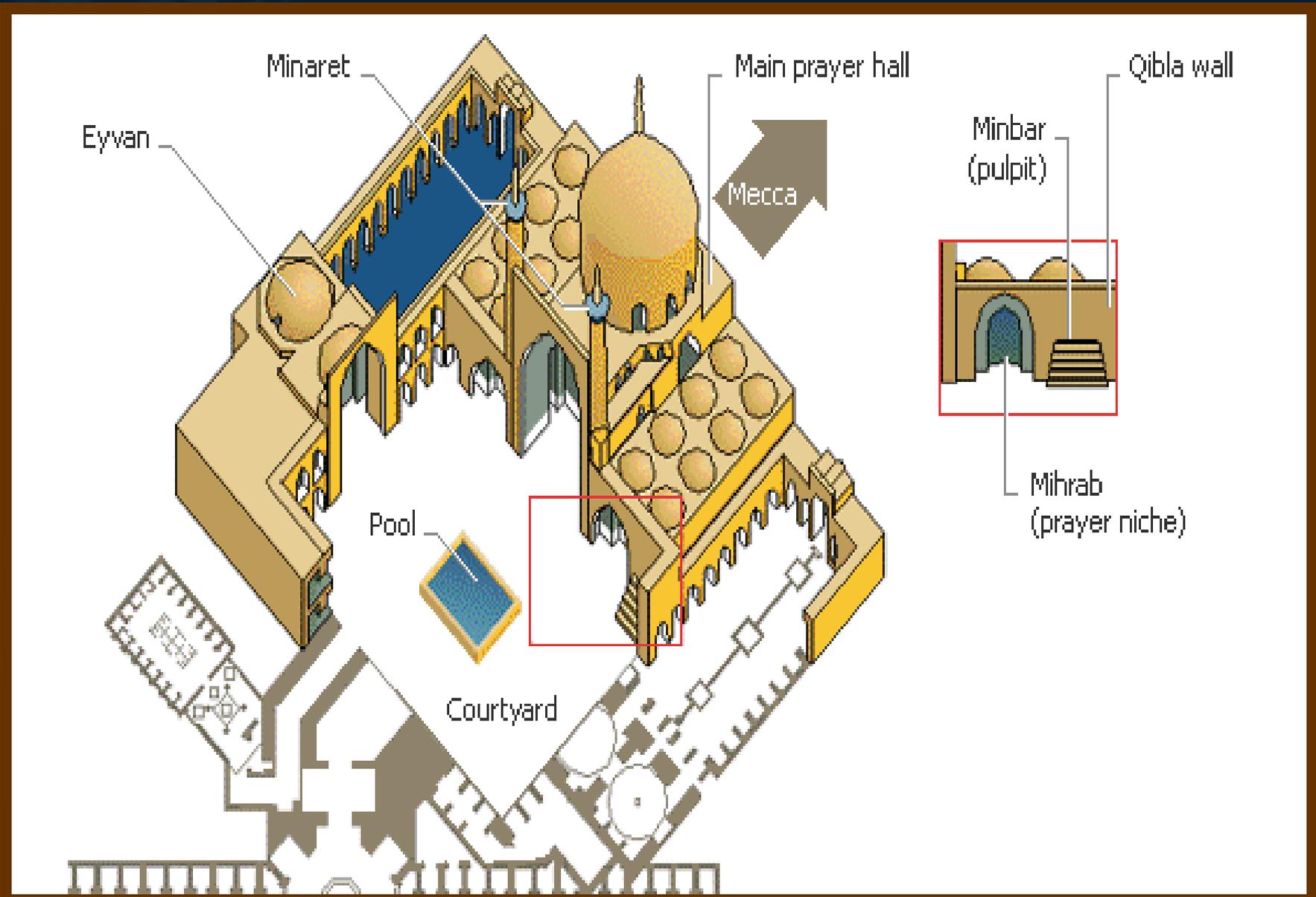
- **The confession of faith** : "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger (apostle) of Allah".
- **Prayer** : The prescribed ritual prayers five times daily, at prescribed times, with the prescribed posture, have to be observed. During these five prayers a fixed prayer-text must be recited seventeen times altogether (twice in the morning; four times at noon; four times in the afternoon; three times in the evening and four times at night).
- **The giving of alms**: A religious duty and should amount to not less than 2.5% of the income above ones needs.
- **Keeping the Fast during the month of Ramadan**: The fast is to last from the rising of the sun until sunset.
- **Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)**: Required once in a lifetime during the month of Ramadan.

# Muhammad

- Born into the powerful Quraysh tribe in Mecca 570 A.D.
- Married a wealthy widow Khadija 15 years his senior.
- In 610 A.D. (at 40) Muhammad receives his calling from the angel Gabriel.

# Muhammad

- Muhammad was deathly afraid of the source of his revelation.
- At first he thought it came from a jinn. Khadija convinced him it was from God.
- After a three year period of silence the messages began to come again.
- Hijra (622, flight), Battle of Badr, Battle of Uhud, the siege of Medina, then Mecca falls.



# Key Terms

## Allah

The Supreme Creator of the universe and all that exists, whom all Muslims worship. The word Allah is derived from the Arabic word *Ilah* (meaning god), but as the word 'god' has a plural form (gods) and a feminine form (goddess), the word Allah should always be used in its place.

## Fatwa

A legal verdict or opinion given by one or more people well-versed in Islamic law, i.e. a cleric or scholar. It is NOT obligatory to follow a fatwa, as this is merely an opinion.

# Key Terms

## **Hajj**

The fifth pillar of Islam, Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca which every Muslim must take once in their lifetime, but only if they are healthy enough and able to afford it.

## **Hijab**

The required Islamic dress code for women, in which the body is covered so that only the face and hands are exposed.

# Key Terms

## **Imam**

The leader of any congregational prayer. It is also sometimes used to refer to the head of an Islamic state.

## **Insha' Allah**

If Allah wills.

## **Isa (AS)**

Jesus, one of the greatest of all prophets. It was to Isa (AS) that the Injeel (Gospels) were revealed.

## **Islam**

Derived from the word Salam (Peace), Islam literally means 'Peace through submission to Allah'.

# Key Terms

## Jihad

Literally means to struggle or strive, and is often incorrectly interpreted as 'holy war'. In an Islamic sense, Jihad is the struggle to propagate or preserve Islam.

## Ka'bah

The structure in Mecca to which all Muslims turn to whilst praying. It was originally built by Adam (AS), then subsequently rebuilt by Ibrahim (AS) and Ismail (AS), then finally cleansed by Muhammad (SAW) and his followers after the pagans of Mecca had used it for their idol-worship for hundreds of years.

# Key Terms

## **Qur'an**

The final divine revelation sent to mankind via Muhammad (SAW). The word Qur'an literally means 'repeatedly recited'.

## **Ramadan**

The ninth month of the Hijri calendar. It was during this month that the revelation of the Qur'an began, and the bloodless conquest of Mecca occurred.

# Key Terms

## **Shariah**

Islamic law, derived from the Qur'an & Sunnah. The Shariah is final and absolute, and cannot be changed.

## **Sunnah**

The sayings, practices and living habits of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), as recording in the various hadith collections. Along with the Qur'an, the sunnah is a source of Islamic law and practice.

## **Surah / Surat**

A chapter of the Qur'an, of which there are 114.

# Key Terms

## **Tawhid**

The belief in the absolute uniqueness of Allah, His attributes and His actions, with no equals or associates. In short, this is the very fundamental concept of Islam.

# God/Allah

- **God** - The central doctrine of Islam is that God is one and that no partner is to be associated with him. To associate a partner with God is to commit the sin of *shirk*, or blasphemy, for which the Qur'an offers no forgiveness (Surah 4:48). Obviously, the doctrine of the Trinity is offensive to Muslims.

# Original Forgiveness

Surah 2:37-Then Adam received from his Lord [some] words, and He accepted his repentance. Indeed, it is He who is the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful.

# Mankind is Created Innocent

Surah 30:30 - So direct your face toward the religion, inclining to truth. [Adhere to] the fitrah of Allah upon which He has created [all] people. No change should there be in the creation of Allah . That is the correct religion, but most of the people do not know.

# Personal Responsibility for Sin

Surah 6:163-164 - No partner has He. And this I have been commanded, and I am the first [among you] of the Muslims. Say, "Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things? And every soul earns not [blame] except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ."

# Blood Sacrifice is not Desired

Surah 22:37-Their meat will not reach Allah , nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you. Thus have We subjected them to you that you may glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and give good tidings to the doers of good.

# Jews did not kill Jesus

Surah 4:156-157 - And [We cursed them] for their disbelief and their saying against Mary a great slander, and [for] their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.

# Forgiveness for All Who Repent

Surah 39:53-54 - Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah . Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful." And return [in repentance] to your Lord and submit to Him before the punishment comes upon you; then you will not be helped.

# No Forgiveness for Shirk

Surah 4:48 - Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills. And he who associates others with Allah has certainly fabricated a tremendous sin.

# Ultimate Decision made by Allah

Surah 28:67-68 - But as for one who had repented, believed, and done righteousness, it is promised by Allah that he will be among the successful. And your Lord creates what He wills and chooses; not for them was the choice. Exalted is Allah and high above what they associate with Him.

# Judgment by Works

Surah 99:6-8 - That Day, the people will depart separated [into categories] to be shown [the result of] their deeds. So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.

# Hell is Created for Men and Genies

Surah 32:13 - And if we had willed, We could have given every soul its guidance, but the word from Me will come into effect [that] "I will surely fill Hell with jinn and people all together.

# Islam and Christianity

## Allah

- **Unitarian Monotheism**
- **Master/Slave Relationship**
- **Allah determines all**
- **Allah is author of good and evil**

## Yahweh

- **Trinitarian Monotheism**
- **Father/Son or Daughter Relationship**
- **Sovereign and Free will**
- **Always good**

# Prophets

**The Prophets of God** - According to the Qur'an, God has sent a prophet to every nation to preach the message of the one God. In all, 124,000 prophets have been sent, according to tradition. Most are unknown, but many include biblical personages such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Each prophet was given for a particular age, but Muhammad is the only prophet who is for all time. He is considered to be the "Seal of the Prophets".

# Scripture

**The Holy Books** - Four of the high-ranking prophets were given books of divine revelation. Those four are Moses, who was given *Tawrat* (Torah), David, who was given the *Zabur* (Psalms), Jesus, who was given the *Injil* (Gospel), and Muhammad, who was given the Qur'an. Of those four books, Muslims contend that only the Qur'an has been preserved in an uncorrupted state.

# Believe the Writings

Surah 4:136 - O you who have believed, believe in Allah and His Messenger 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.

# Judgment

**The Day of Judgment** - The God of the Qur'an has decreed that there will be a day when all will stand before him in judgment. On that day, each person's deeds will be weighed in the balance. Those whose bad deeds outweigh their good deeds will be damned, but those whose good deeds outweigh the bad will be rewarded with Paradise. Whether one's good deeds outweigh one's bad deeds is a subjective matter, though. A Muslim, as a result, has no assurance that he or she will be accepted by God.

# Infidels

Surah 39:60,69 - And on the Day of Resurrection you will see those who lied about Allah [with] their faces blackened. Is there not in Hell a residence for the arrogant? And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the record [of deeds] will be placed, and the prophets and the witnesses will be brought, and it will be judged between them in truth, and they will not be wronged.

# Judgment of Infidels

Surah 39:71-72 - And those who disbelieved will be driven to Hell in groups until, when they reach it, its gates are opened and its keepers will say, "Did there not come to you messengers from yourselves, reciting to you the verses of your Lord and warning you of the meeting of this Day of yours?" They will say, "Yes, but the word of punishment has come into effect upon the disbelievers. [To them] it will be said, "Enter the gates of Hell to abide eternally therein, and wretched is the residence of the arrogant."

# Judgment of Blessed

Surah 39:73 - But those who feared their Lord will be driven to Paradise in groups until, when they reach it while its gates have been opened and its keepers say, "Peace be upon you; you have become pure; so enter it to abide eternally therein," [they will enter].

