

The word Allah is Arabic word which means God. Both Muslims and Arabic-speaking Christians equally use it to mean God.

God revealed His only message to guide mankind to the right path through a succession of messengers. These messengers delivered the message to all mankind, no community was left out. Muslims believe that Adam (pbuh) was the first messenger and that Muhammad (pbuh) was the final messenger. Muslims believe that the prophets mentioned in the Old Testament are among the messengers of God.

The Beautiful Names of God

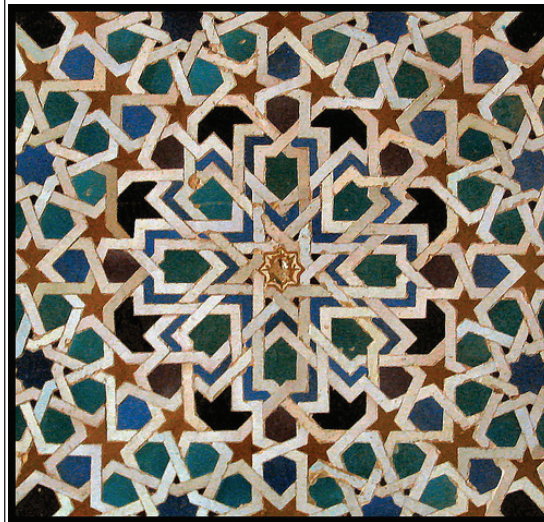
The Quran lists 99 names of God that Muslims are asked to call upon God using them. These include: The Almighty, The benevolent, The Compassionate, The Just, The Merciful, the Splendid, The Sovereign.

Contact Us:

Muslims Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
430 Logy Bay Rd.
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
A1A 5C6
Ph. (709) 75-ISLAM

Email: manal@manal.ca

Visit us online at: www.manal.ca



The Meaning of Islam





THE MEANING OF ISLAM

The word “Islam” is an Arabic word that means “surrender”, a derivative of this word is the Arabic word “salam” meaning peace. Thus, Islam is a religion that is based on attaining peace through voluntary submission to God. This peace is comprehensive. It encompasses peace within oneself, peace with those around us, peace with the environment and peace with the universe.

Islam is a way of life. It encompasses all human activities. It regulates the relationship between human beings and God; the relationship among human beings; the relationship between human beings and other creatures; the relationship between human beings and the environment; and the relationship between human beings and the universe. The underpinning of this way of life is to enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil.

“Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good and forbidding what is evil, those indeed are the successful.”[3:104]

3 BASIC CONCEPTS

The message of Islam is based on three fundamental concepts: the oneness of God, the oneness of the message and the continuity of the messengers. Muslims believe that the universe was created by the One Almighty God. He is the God of the worlds. He is neither begotten, nor does He beget. Nothing is like Him. He is has no gender.

THE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Islam is built upon five pillars. These provide the foundation upon which Muslim’s character is built. The pillars serve several functions. They provide a continuous link between man and God, they strengthen the spiritual aspects of life, and they provide a perpetual reminder for a Muslim of the purpose of life. These pillars are: the testament of faith, prayers, fasting, paying the poor dues (Zakat), and performing pilgrimage.

TESTAMENT OF FAITH

The testament of faith expresses the fundamental concept of the belief in the oneness of God and that Muhammad (pbuh) is His messenger.

Muslims pray five times every day. The prayers are best done at the Mosque in congregation but a Muslim may pray elsewhere when he/she cannot make it to the Mosque. On Friday, Muslims gather at the Mosque shortly after noon time to perform their weekly congregational prayer.

Every year and for the period of a full month, Muslims adopt a special routine. The month (a lunar month) is called Ramadan, and the routine is called fasting. During that month Muslims abstain from eating, drinking, and intimate relationships with spouses from dawn till sunset. It is a training camp to promote spirituality and curb carnal desires. It is also, a reminder of the suffering of the needy and the poor.

Muslims are required to pay a certain percentage of their net savings annually to be spent, among other causes, in aid of the needy. Muslims who can afford it are required to perform Pilgrimage once in a life time. Pilgrimage is a commemoration of Prophet Abraham (pbuh).

THE CREED OF ISLAM

Muslims believe in God, His Messengers, His Angels, His Scripture, and the hereafter. God Almighty is the Creator. He chose from among mankind messengers to deliver His message.

The angels are God’s ambassadors who conveyed His revelation to His messengers. The Scripture is God’s message revealed to His prophets through the Angels. These include the Torah revealed to Prophet Moses (pbuh), the Psalms revealed to Prophet David (pbuh), the Bible revealed to Prophet Jesus (pbuh), and the Quran revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

God’s message assures us of resurrection after death and of a Day of Judgment where we will be held accountable for our deeds on earth.

