

Islam

Submission to God and to Muhammad
as the chief and last prophet of
God.

The Pillars of Islam

- ◆ Al-Shahada: Declaration of Faith
- ◆ Salat: Establishing Five Prayers a day
- ◆ Zakat: The payment to a just Charity to the poor (Tax)
- ◆ Sawm: Fasting in the daylight in the month of Ramadan
- ◆ Hajj: (Pilgrimage to Mecca) if affordable and health permits.

1- Declaration of Faith

- ◆ The declaration that there is no God but One and that Mohammad is His messenger.
- ◆ The English Translation reads:

I bear witness that There is no God Except Allah, and that Muhammad is his Messenger.

2. Salat (Prayer)

- ◆ Prayers for adults that are performed 5 times a day (Pre-Dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset, and night).
- ◆ ***Allahu akbar! (God is the greatest!). Allahu akbar!. La ilaha illa Allah (there is no God but Allah). I testify that Muhammad is the prophet of Allah. Arise and pray; arise and pray. Allahu akbar. La ilaha illa Allah.***
- ◆ “Tasbih” (rosary), similar to the one of the Catholics, but with 99 beads (99 attributes of Allah by the Qur’an).



Prayer Preparation



With the use of water or clean soil (sand)

1. Wash Face
2. Wash arms to the elbows
3. Wipe heads with wet hands
4. Wash Feet to the ankles

A place of Worship (Mosque)

- ◆ "minaret" or tall tower.
- ◆ A "niche", indicating the direction of Mecca.
- ◆ The "pulpit".
- ◆ A "fountain" at the entrance
- ◆ Balcony for the women.
- ◆ You have to enter the Mosque without shoes ("sacred place"), there are not seats, but the floor is covered with the "prayer rug"



3-Zakat (Charity)

- ◆ In Islam everything belongs to God.
- ◆ Zakat is mandatory charity
- ◆ Eligible Muslims pay it on an annual basis. It helps to "purify" their wealth.
- ◆ Funds collected are distributed to the poor, orphans, and needy in society.
- ◆ Consists of 2.5% of ones accumulated wealth excluding such items as primary residence, car and professional tools.

4- Sawm (Fasting)

- ◆ Fasting One month a year in Ramadan (9th month of the year representing Muhammad's initial commission as a prophet).
- ◆ Muslims fast from dawn until sundown Fasting means abstaining from any food, drink, and sexual relations.
- ◆ Fasting helps Muslims build will-power, feel compassion, purify their body, and strengthen community relations .

5- Hajj (Pilgrimage)

- ◆ Once in a lifetime. An obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to do so.
- ◆ The first call for hajj was made by Prophet Abraham. Commemorates the trials of Ibrahim and his family.
- ◆ In Hajj Muslims dedicate their full time to worshiping God.
- ◆ About 2-3 million people perform the Hajj annually.



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Kaba



- ◆ Most sacred place on Earth for Muslims
- ◆ Stone Structure covered with black cloth.
- ◆ Believed to be built by Adam and rebuilt by Abraham and Ishmael over 4000 yrs. Ago
- ◆ Not worshiped but where Muslims face to pray

Sacrifice an Animal

- ◆ commemoration of Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son
- ◆ Sheep, Camel, or 1/7th of a cow
- ◆ 1/3 consumed, 1/3 given as sacrifice, and 1/3 to the poor.
- ◆ Not Required

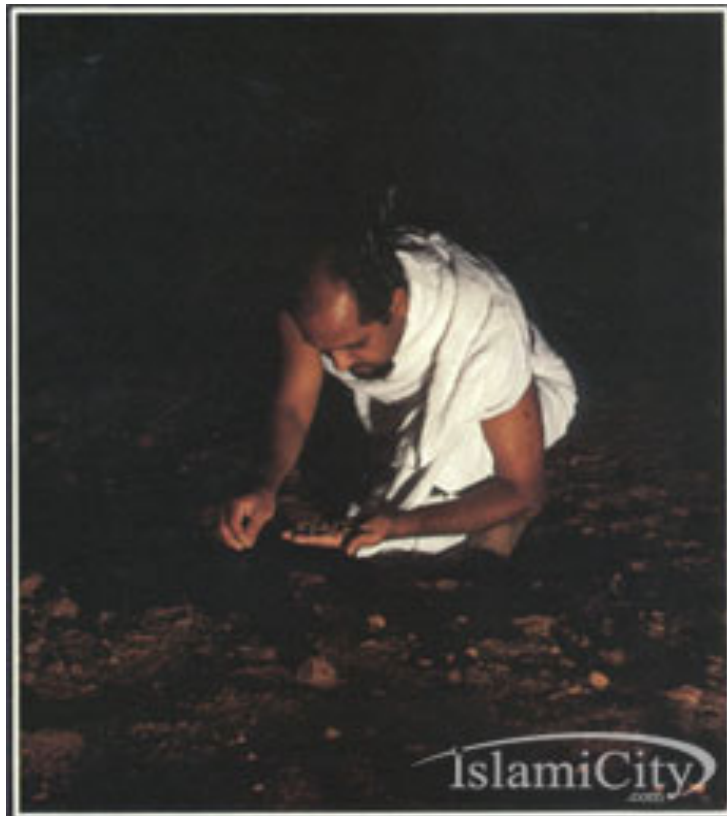


Ihram

- Day 1
- Forbidden acts: to wear perfume, cut hair, hunt, conduct marriage contracts, shaving, clipping nails, lying, and sexual intercourse.



Collecting Pebbles



- ◆ Collect 70 pebbles
- ◆ Throw the stones at the Pillars which symbolizes the stoning of the devil.

Cutting Hair



◆ Day 3

The act of Sa'ee

- ◆ The devotional act of walking 7 times between the knolls of Safa and Marwah
- ◆ The act retraces the footsteps of Hajar searching for water to provide for her son Ishmael who was abandoned in the desert by prophet Ibrahim due to a divine vision.
- ◆ Mandatory

