

# **ISLAM, THE TRUE RELIGION**

Praise be to *Allāh*, the Lord of the worlds. May *Allāh* raise the rank of our master *Muhammad* ﷺ and his *Al* and Companions and protect his nation from that which he fears for it.

## ***Allāh***

Everything that exists, except *Allāh* the Creator, is created by Him<sup>(1)</sup>. *Allāh* has full power over every bit of His creation. *Allāh* is not created; He existed always, having His attributes. *Allāh* will never perish, nor will His attributes diminish. The attributes of *Allāh* are uncountable, among which are: He has knowledge of all His creation; He sees the seeable things; and He hears the hearable things. His knowing, seeing and hearing are in no way similar to ours. *Allāh's Kalam* (Speech) is not made up of language or sound, nor does it resemble the speech of man in any way. *Allāh* does not need any of His creation for His existence and He does not resemble any of His creation in any way. This means that *Allāh* is not a man or a woman; He is not "a Father" or "a Mother". *Allāh* does not have a wife, a mother, a father, a son, or a daughter; He has no equal or partner. *Allāh* does not divide into parts. No creation has "a part of *Allāh* " in him, nor can any creation become like *Allāh*. He is the only God.

*Allāh* existed eternally before He created any of the places, such as Paradise, the skies, Earth, or the planets. Hence, we know *Allāh* is now as He was before He created all these places; He does not need any place for His existence. *Allāh* has always known about every part of His creation; there is no thing in His creation which escapes His knowledge or defeats Him. No thing goes against the will of *Allāh* . Both good and evil occur by *Allāh's* will. However, *Allāh* orders humans to do only the good; humans make the choice to obey or disobey *Allāh*. Our ability to do good or evil is given to us by *Allāh*, the Exalted.

## **HUMANITY**

Men and women are creations of *Allāh*. They are distinct from plants, animals, *jinn*, and angels. They were created after the angels and *jinn*. The first man was created from clay. *Allāh* puts a soul, which He created, in the

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<sup>1</sup> The words "He", "His", and "Him" used in reference to *Allāh* must not be construed to refer to gender.

human being, but in no way is man's soul *Allah* , or "a part of *Allah* ". The first man was *Adam*, and all human beings come from his family. *Adam* had no mother or father; he was created and given life by *Allah*. *Allah* created a wife for *Adam* who bore his children. *Allah* created the human beings to order them to believe, profess the truth about *Allah* and His messengers, worship *Allah* only, and follow His orders during their life on Earth. Some of mankind do worship *Allah* correctly and obey His orders. These will be rewarded beyond imagination in Paradise. Some of mankind do not worship *Allah* correctly and will be severely punished by *Allah* in Hellfire.

## ***Jinn***

*Jinn* are distinct creations of *Allah*, who are invisible to humans. The ancestor of all *jinn* is Satan. He was first a believer, then he blasphemed. *Allah* created him from the pure flame of fire. The *jinn* are male and female and have offspring. They exist here on Earth and elsewhere. Like the humans, some *jinn* worship *Allah* , but some do not. The ones who do not are known as the devils, whose head is Satan.

## **ANGELS**

Angels are another distinct creation of *Allah*. They are not male or female and have no children. *Allah* created them from light. They never sin. They obey *Allah* in every matter. Humans have angels near them that record all they do. Some angels have appeared to people in the form of men<sup>(2)</sup>, but they never take a woman's shape. Some angels protect people from *jinn* by *Allah*'s will. Gabriel (*Jibril*) was the angel who conveyed the Revelations to the prophets.

## **PROPHETS**

Prophets are the greatest men that ever lived. Prophets received Revelation from *Allah* and conveyed it to the people. The prophets received the Revelations and conveyed them in the language that *Allah* ordered. The language of the scriptures is created, but *Allah*'s *Kalam* (Speech)<sup>(3)</sup> is not. A messenger is a prophet who comes with abrogating some of the laws brought by the previous messenger or receives a new set of laws. Prophets were intelligent, trustworthy, and truthful. They never commit major sins and never leave their Religion. Many prophets have lived in the past. *Muhammad*, may *Allah*'s peace and blessings be upon him, who lived some 1400 years ago, was the last and greatest prophet.

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<sup>2</sup> Some angels may appear to people in the form of men, but without sexual organs.

<sup>3</sup> The *Kalam* of *Allah*, has two meanings: one meaning refers to the eternal and everlasting attribute of *Allah* by which He orders, prohibits, promises, and threatens. *Allah*'s *Kalam* is not composed of letters, words, language, or sound. The other meaning is the expression of *Allah*'s eternal attribute which was revealed in the authentic Books of revelation that were given to the Prophets.

Other prophets before *Muhammad* include: *Adam*, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph (son of Jacob), David, Solomon, Moses, and Jesus, may *Allah's* peace and blessings be upon all of them.

The true scriptures were Revelations received by the prophets. Moses and Jesus both received scriptures, but what are now called the Torah and the Bible have been tampered with by man and are not the true Revelations received by the great messengers Moses and Jesus. The only scripture which is unchanged and will never be changed is the *Qur'an*, which is the scripture *Allah* revealed to *Muhammad* ﷺ, His last prophet, in clear and eloquent Arabic. *Allah* has promised to protect the *Qur'an* from any changes by man. Hence, it has remained unchanged since it was revealed some 1400 years ago. Unlike the prophets before him who were sent to a particular people, *Muhammad* ﷺ was sent to all people who would live at his time and all people who would live after him until the Day of Judgment.

## **THE DAY OF JUDGMENT**

On a day which only *Allah* knows (not even the angels or prophets know it), *Allah* will make all the creatures who are still living on the Earth and in the skies die (including Satan and other devils and angels). Then *Allah* will resurrect them all. Then He will judge humans and *jinn* on what they did during their lives. They will be rewarded or punished, by *Allah's* will, for what they believed, said, and did by their own choice.

## **PARADISE**

Those of mankind and *jinn* who believe correctly in *Allah*, and believe in the Messenger sent to them and profess their belief (i.e., becoming followers of the true Religion) and die with that status will dwell forever in Paradise, which *Allah* has created for them. The life in Paradise is better than what any human living on Earth can imagine. Those in Paradise will experience it in body and soul, but the body will be a new body with no defects. Paradise is not allegorical. It is a very real and actual place. Therein will be wonderful riches, foods, joys, and peace. People will be married and have interaction with one another. Those in Paradise will be in various ranks according to their piety. Those who are rewarded with Paradise will never be sent out of it.

## **HELL**

Hell, another creation of *Allah*, is the dwelling place for those of humans and *jinn* who reject the revelations of the prophets. Hence, they disbelieve in *Allah* and His messengers. Hell is also a particular place and its torture is not experienced here on Earth. The suffering will also be in body and soul. Some of the followers of the true Religion, who sinned but did not repent during their lifetime, will suffer in Hell for some time. Being believers of the true Religion, they will get out of Hell after a time which *Allah* wills. Then they will enter Paradise and dwell there forever and receive no further punishment. Some believers of the true Religion who die as sinners will be forgiven by *Allah* on the Day of Judgment and will not go to Hell before entering Paradise.

## **LIFE AND DEATH**

This life of a human or *jinn* always ends with death and there is no exception. Humans do not choose their race, sex, parents, or birthplace. Thus, they will not be held accountable for those aspects of their life on the Day of Judgment. No human is doomed to Hell because he was born from a certain sex or race. *Allah*, the Merciful, has promised that any human or *jinn* who dies as a follower of the true Religion will receive Paradise forever.

The correct belief in *Allah* does not change. Every prophet and messenger has said the same concerning belief in *Allah* : No one is God but *Allah*, and mankind is to believe in Him and worship Him only. The prophet for the people on Earth at present is *Muhammad* ﷺ, may *Allah's* blessings and peace be upon him, and the laws for the present population are the laws that Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ was given by *Allah* for mankind. There will be no new laws given, for there will be no new messenger or prophet.

## **SATAN**

Satan, the first *jinn*, was present with the angels when *Allah* ordered him and the angels to bow down in respect before *Adam*. Satan did not bow down in respect. He objected to *Allah* and said he was better than *Adam*, because he was made from fire whereas *Adam* was made from clay. Because of this objection, *Allah* damned Satan and banished him. Satan vowed that he would try to persuade humans to accept false belief and to perform false worship and shameful conduct. *Allah* promised that Satan and those who follow him will go to Hell on the Day of Judgment.

Satan is man's accursed enemy. His vow to ruin many of mankind is not to be taken lightly. He attempts to confuse and ruin man by his prompting and making bad deeds seem good. A person is not sinful when Satan whispers to him; he is sinful if he believes and/or acts on the prompting. Although humans must believe that Satan exists and take the warning about him very seriously, we must remember that *Allah* has full power over Satan. Satan can do nothing against the will of *Allah*. When a believer of the true Religion strives to follow *Allah's* orders and asks *Allah* for protection from Satan, he must not doubt *Allah's* great protection and mercy.

## **RELIGION**

There is only one true Religion, that of holding the correct belief in *Allah* and His messengers, worshipping *Allah* only, and loving, respecting, and following the prophet of the time and loving and respecting the other prophets. Every prophet and messenger followed and called people to the same Religion; this Religion is called **ISLAM**. A believer in **ISLAM** is called a **MUSLIM**. The meaning of the word *Islam* is "to submit to *Allah*". The meaning of the word Muslim is "one who submits to *Allah*". The name *Allah* is the name of the only true God. It means the one who is attributed with the power to create things. Although prophets and messengers spoke different languages, what they called people to was the same Religion, *Islam*. A person can declare that he

believes and follows the true Religion, *Islām*, in any language. Belief is known to *Allāh* regardless of the language. Those who say they are Muslims, yet deny the true belief in their heart, with their tongue, or by some actions, are surely not Muslims. *Allāh* knows fully who are the ones who truly believe in *Islām*. Both messengers Moses and Jesus called their people to the true Religion, *Islām*. This fact is clearly described in the *Qurʾān*, the last and preserved scripture for all of mankind on Earth.

## **JESUS**

Jesus, may *Allāh's* blessings and peace be upon him, is dearly loved by Muslims, for he is one of the greatest messengers and he is one of the most loved creations to *Allāh*. Jesus has no father; he was created within his mother, Mary, a woman chosen above others.

By *Allāh's* will, Prophet Jesus performed many miracles and was obedient to *Allāh* in every way. Jesus spoke only the truth and his followers were Muslims. Never did Jesus say he was *Allāh*, "the son of *Allāh*", or that his followers should pray to him or to anyone other than *Allāh*. Jesus is a man, but had no father; *Adam* was a man but had neither a father nor a mother. The *Qurʾān* tells us that the Jews did not crucify Jesus as some believe. He was not crucified at all. By *Allāh's* will, Jesus was raised from Earth. Jesus is alive in the second Heaven. *Allāh* will send Jesus back to Earth before the Day of Judgment. Jesus will attest that *Islām* is the true faith and that Prophet *Muḥammad* ﷺ is the last messenger. He will follow the laws that *Allāh* gave to *Muḥammad* ﷺ, and slay the one-eyed impostor.

## **SINS**

When a person goes against *Allāh's* orders (which are conveyed by His messenger), he sins. The worst sin is blasphemy. It is caused by any belief, saying, or action that contradicts *Islām*. When a person becomes Muslim he leaves all blasphemy. A Muslim must learn about blasphemy to avoid committing any of them as he proceeds through life. If a Muslim commits blasphemy, he becomes non-Muslim (apostate) and must become Muslim again. If a Muslim commits a sin which is less than blasphemy and dies without repenting to *Allāh* of the sin, then this sin is counted against him on the Day of Judgment, unless *Allāh* forgives it for him. On the other hand, if a Muslim follows *Allāh's* orders, in obedience to Him, this is counted in his favor. All of this is known by *Allāh* and no thing escapes Him.

When a Muslim commits sins, he must repent of them immediately. To repent of blasphemy, one must utter the Two Testifications of Faith, with the intention to clear oneself of the committed blasphemy. The Testifications of Faith (*Shahādahs*) can be stated as follows:

**"I testify that I only worship my Creator  
and I testify that *Muhammad* is  
God's Messenger.**

Any statement equivalent to the Testifications of Faith is also accepted.

For a sin less than blasphemy, one must stop doing the sin, regret having done it, and have the intention not to commit the same sin again. If the sin is stealing from a person, for example, then the stolen goods must be returned as well. *Allah* is ever-merciful to the Muslim. No matter how many times the Muslim sins in his life, if he stops it, regrets having done it, and intends not to do it again, he will be forgiven by *Allah*. However, for those who are non-Muslim, no matter what good deeds they do, they receive no credit in the Hereafter; they must first become Muslim.

A few examples of blasphemy are: believing that *Allah* has a son, worshipping an idol, and saying that *Allah* does not know everything. Some examples of sins less than blasphemy are: killing a person unjustly, adultery, drinking alcohol, and stealing. When a Muslim makes sincere repentance, as was described, it is as though he did not sin, in that he will not be punished for what he repented of, for *Allah* is ever-merciful to the Muslims. Also, when a person becomes a Muslim for the first time, *Allah* forgives all his past sins.

## ***PRAYER***

Upon the order of *Allah*, Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ commanded the Muslims to pray five times a day. This order applies since the lifetime of Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ until the Day of Judgment. The prayers have a specific format with the one praying praising and thanking *Allah*, asking for His help and guidance, and asking Him to bless the prophets and the pious Muslims. A Muslim knows that at any moment of his life he can ask *Allah* for help and guidance, and he is encouraged to do so. However, supplicating *Allah* does not replace the five prescribed prayers, which have a specific format to be followed.

## ***BECOMING A MUSLIM***

A person becomes a Muslim by leaving all that contradicts the meaning of the following Two Testifications of Faith, believing in the heart and declaring with the tongue<sup>(4)</sup>.

**"No one deserves worship but God, the Creator.  
And  
*Muhammad* is the Messenger of God"**

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<sup>4</sup> Saying any statement equivalent to the Two Testifications of Faith in any language is also valid.

Believing in all this implies that: *Allah*, the Creator, has perfect attributes; only *Allah* must be worshipped; Prophet *Muhammad* ﷺ, the last prophet, was truthful in all that he conveyed from *Allah*; all the prophets, peace be upon them, before him (the first of whom was *Adam*) conveyed the same message of belief to their people; they are to be loved and respected, yet in no way do prophets (or any creation) have *Allah's* attributes.

A person can become Muslim, as aforementioned, in the solitude of a forest or in a crowded subway; he does not need to go to a mosque or have Muslims witness his profession. *Allah* knows the hearts of His creation. However, when the person becomes Muslim, he may declare his belief to some fellow Muslims so that he will be known as a Muslim among the people.

Don't hesitate to embrace *Islam*; it is the gateway to success. To anyone who becomes Muslim while reading this booklet, we advise you to seek knowledge as to the practice of *Islam* from a trustworthy Muslim teacher. As people go to college to be taught by those knowledgeable about different subjects, one must go to a learned Muslim to learn about the practice of *Islam*. For a devoted Muslim, there will always be more to learn and more ways to improve; so arrogance is not a part of a good Muslim's life.

All praise is due to *Allah*,  
the Lord of the heavens and earth.  
*Allah* knows best.