



In the name of All^h, Most Gracious,  
Most Merciful

### What is Islam?

Islam means the active submission to the one God. It is strictly a monotheistic (one God) religion. The word Islam (derived from the word peace) means submission to the one God - the same God which the Christians and Jews believe in. So he who submits to the will of God is a Muslim.

Islam is the final religion revealed to human beings through the last Prophet who was called Muhammad (p.b.u.h). He was born in Mecca (in Saudi Arabia) in the year 570 A.D. Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was a very truthful and honest person. He was also very devout and detested the moral decadence of his society. At the age of forty, God asked him, through the angel Gabriel, to proclaim the religion of Islam publicly. God's message to humanity was delivered in the Qur'an, which was revealed to Muhammad (p.b.u.h). The Qur'an is the Holy book of Muslims and contains 114 chapters (called *Suras*). Muslims believe that it is the pure word of God, unadulterated over 14 centuries. It deals with issues which affect human beings in their earthly lives; issues like piety, upright human conduct, worship, the creation of a just and virtuous society and the practice of ethics.

**Only With Comparison Will Truth  
Prevail...**

Islam is one of the greatest and fastest growing religions in the world today, and seen as the most logical by scientists who have studied the religion in depth. Yet it is also the most misunderstood religion. For a long time, we have felt the need to produce some literature, which will explain Islam to non-Muslims and remove the false notions many have about Islam. So by creating this I hope I will be able to achieve this. It's a great read, and you have nothing to lose by reading it.



### Christianity in Islam

Muslims respect Jesus Christ (p.b.u.h). They consider him to be one of God's greatest messengers to humankind. The Qur'an re-affirms his miraculous birth and his miraculous abilities. Furthermore, his mother Mary is regarded as one of the most pure and exalted women of all creation. As the Qur'an says: **"Behold! The angel said: 'God has chosen you and purified you and has chosen you above the women of all nations. O Mary! God gives you the good news of a word from Him, whose name shall be Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, honored in this world and the hereafter, and one of those brought near to God'"** (3:42).

### Islam and War

The concept of **Jihad** (wrongly translated as holy war) refers to the duty of Muslims to defend their faith and the welfare of the Muslim community when threatened and attacked. The Qur'an does not permit offensive aggression against anyone and that no innocent people should be killed - no men, women or children should be killed and that there should be no damage to the land, plants or crops of the people. **Warfare is permitted only in self-defense.** However, it must be noted that people only resort to violence when their basic human rights are violated and when all attempts at peaceful settlement are thwarted.

### Islam and Human Rights

Islam teaches that humans have a moral obligation to live in harmony with one another. Islam also recognizes and records rights to all human beings regardless of race, colour or creed. Islam requires its followers to show respect and tolerance even to those who do not share their faith. Prophet Muhammad said: **"God has no mercy on one who shows no mercy to others."**

The Qur'an itself guarantees freedom of conscience (the judgement of doing right or wrong). It states: **"There is no compulsion in religion"** (2:256). Islamic law stipulates that Muslims should protect the status of minorities. Therefore the life and property of all citizens in an Islamic state are considered sacred, whether a person is a Muslim or not. Because of this, non-Muslim places of worship have survived and flourished all over the Muslim world.

Islam further encourages Muslims to respect the rights of all living things.

Muslims are required to be conscious of the environment and are not allowed to cause harm to nature.

### Women in Islam

Before Islam, women were badly treated and had about as much rights as the insane or children. Fourteen hundred years ago, Islam came and gave women rights of which had never been seen before. Muslim women were able to work, exercise voting powers and exercise other rights of which women in England have only recently attained. Muslim women may not be forced to marry against their will and have to be well respected. They are **not** seen as inferior to men and are seen as equals.

In Islam, there is no notion of woman being responsible for the "Fall" or of being the first sinner and therefore responsible for all of the mankind's woes. There is no idea of man being created out of superior material and woman out of base matter. Woman is made equal, both men and women are the progeny of Adam, so both have similar souls.

Prophet Muhammad said: **"O women! Remember that the devout among you will enter Heaven before the devout men"**

To preserve chastity, respect and moral values in society, Muslim men and women are required to dress in a manner, which is considered modest and dignified.

Islam prohibits adultery because it's the cause of much social chaos and suffering of individuals, families, and societies. Islam stops the things which may lead to adultery by promoting the wearing of modest clothes. The diversity of female dress in some Muslim countries is often the expression of customs and culture.