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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Rise of Islam.

Dr. Zakera A. Siddiqui.

I.C. Principal of F.D. Arts & Commerce College, Jamalpur, Ahmedabad.

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Abstract

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*Corresponding Author

Dr. Zakera A. Siddiqui.

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The universe, as we know is on the basis of cultures and traditions united by the knowledge and enlightenment of various books like Pavitra Quran-e-Sharif, The holy Bible, Bhagwad Gita etc. These oceans of knowledge not only teach us the way to oneness with God, but also demonstrate paths to lead a successful life in coordination with nature and divinity.

This article provides information about one of the most precious and divine teachings known to humans, “**Islam**”. Islam is derived from the Arabic word “**Salema**”: which means peace, purity, submission and obedience. In the religious sense, Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His law. Islam is a verbal noun

originating from the trilateral word s-l-m which forms a large class of words mostly relating to concepts of wholeness, submission, safeness and peace. In a religious context it means "**voluntary submission to God**".

In Islam, God is beyond all comprehension and Muslims are not expected to visualize God. God is described and referred to by certain names or attributes, the most common being *Al-Rahmān*, meaning "The Compassionate" and *Al-Rahīm*, meaning "The Merciful" (See Names of God in Islam).

Muslims believe that the creation of everything in the universe was brought into being by God's sheer command, "'Be' and so it is," and that the purpose of existence of all human beings and the nature as whole is to worship God.

Everything and every phenomenon in the world other than man is administered totally by God-made laws, i.e. they are obedient to God and submissive to his laws and they are in the State of Islam.

Islam began in the early-7th century. Originating in Mecca, it quickly spread in the Arabian Peninsula and by the 8th century the Islamic Empire was extended from Arabia in the west to the Indus River in the east and also till the Far East. The Islamic Golden Age refers to the period traditionally dated from the 8th century to the 13th century when much of the historically Islamic world was experiencing a scientific, economic and cultural flourish.

Muslims identify the **Prophets of Islam** (Arabic: أنبياء *anbiyā'*) as those humans chosen by God to be His messengers. According to the Quran, the prophets were instructed by God to bring the "will of God" to the people of the nations. Muslims believe that prophets are humans having divine power of Quran given to them by God, to perform miracles to prove their claim says that all of God's messengers preached the message of Islam—submission to the will of God. The Quran mentions the names of numerous figures who are considered prophets in Islam, including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, among others.

Muslims believe that God finally sent Muhammad (peace be upon him and his progeny) Sallallaaho alaiha wa aale hi wasa-llam as the last law bearing Prophet to convey the divine message to the whole world (to sum up and to finalize the word of God). In Islam, the "normative" example of Muhammad's life is called the **Sunnah**.

The Pillars of Islam (*arkan al-Islam*; also *arkan ad-din*, "pillars of religion") are five basic acts in Islam, considered obligatory for all believers. The Quran presents them as a framework for worship and a sign of commitment to the faith. They are:-

1. The creed (**Shahadah**),
2. Daily prayers (**Salat**),
3. Almsgiving (**Zakah**),
4. Fasting during **Ramadan (Roza)** and
5. The pilgrimage to Mecca (**Hajj**)

Shahadah:-

It is the basic creed of Islam that must be recited under oath with the specific statement: "'*ašhadu 'al-lā ilāha illā-llāhu wa 'ašhadu 'anna muḥammadan abduhu wa rasūlu-llāh*", or "I testify that there is no eligible except Allah, he is the one & only, Muhammad is the follower and messenger of God."

This testament is a foundation for all other beliefs and practices in Islam.

Salat:-

Salāh or Salāt (Arabic: صلاة), must be performed five times a day. Salat is intended to focus the mind on God, and is seen as a personal communication with him that expresses gratitude and worship. Salat is compulsory but flexibility in the specifics is allowed depending on circumstances. The prayers are recited in the Arabic language, and consist of verses from the Qur'an. The prayers are done facing the direction of the Kaaba, though in the early days of Islam, they were done in direction of Jerusalem.

Zakah:-

Zakāt (Arabic: زكاة *zakāh* "alms") is giving a fixed portion of accumulated wealth by those who can afford it to help the poor or needy. It is considered a religious obligation that the well-off owe to the needy because their wealth is seen as a "trust from God's bounty."

Fasting during Ramadan:-

Fasting, (Arabic: صوم *Sawm*), from food and drink (among other things) must be performed from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadhan.

It is done to encourage a feeling of nearness to God, and during it, Muslims should express their gratitude for and dependence on Him, forgiveness for their past sins, and think of the needy.

Hajj:-

Hajj (Arabic: حج), has to be done during the Islamic month of *Zil-Hajj* in the city of Mecca. Every Muslim who can afford it must make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in his or her lifetime.

Rituals of the Hajj include: spending a day and a night in the desert plain of Mina, then a day in the desert plain of Arafat praying and worshipping God, following the footsteps of Abraham.

Then spending a night out in the open, sleeping on the desert sand in the desert plain of Muzdalfah, then moving to Jamarat, symbolically stoning the devil recounting Abraham's actions. Then going to Mecca and walking seven times around the Kaaba which Muslims believe was built as a place of worship by Abraham.

They walk seven times between Mount Safa and Mount Marwah recounting the steps of Abraham's wife Hajra Khafun (peace be upon her), while she was looking for water for her son Ismail (peace be upon him) in the desert before Mecca developed into a settled town.

Islam has also given a great contribution in the fields of arts and architectures. Islamic art encompasses the visual arts produced from the 7th century onwards by people who lived within the territory that was inhabited by Muslim populations. It includes fields of architecture, calligraphy, painting and ceramics, among others. Some of the well known arts include the Sufi music also.



Islam also consists of a unique calendar. According to it, the formal beginning of the Muslim era was chosen to be the Hijra in 622 CE, which was an important turning point in Muhammad's preaching of Islam. The assignment of this year as the year 1 AH (*Anno Hegirae*) in the Islamic calendar was reportedly made by the Caliphs Umar. It is a lunar calendar with days lasting from sunset to sunset. Islamic holy days fall on fixed dates of the lunar calendar. The most important Islamic festivals are *Eid al-Fitr* (Arabic: عيد الفطر) on the 1st of Shawwal, marking the end of the fasting month *Ramadan*, and *Eid al-Adha* (عيد الأضحى) on the 10th of *Dhu al-Hijjah*, coinciding with the pilgrimage to Mecca.