

Islamic Practices- Revision.

Shahadah - declaration of faith

'There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.'

Shi'a Muslims add 'and Ali is a friend of Allah' to the Shahadah

Muslims repeat the Shahadah first thing on waking and last thing before sleeping.

They are the first words whispered into the ears of a new-born baby, and if possible, the last words uttered to the dying.

It shows belief that God is one (Tawhid) and that there are no other Gods (false idols is Shirk).

It shows obedience, trust and loyalty.

You must state the Shahadah to be a Muslim. To convert to Islam, you must state the Shahadah twice in front of witnesses.

It is an outward expression of faith and is heard during the adhan (first call to prayer).



'Whoever says: there is no God but God enters Paradise' Hadith

Salah -ritual prayer

Sunni Muslims say the 5 prayers separately so pray 5 times a day. **Shi'a Muslims combine the 5 prayers and so pray 3 times a day.**

'If one of you sleeps and misses a prayer let him offer the prayer when he remembers' Hadith

Muslims ritually wash (wudu) before prayer so they are pure.

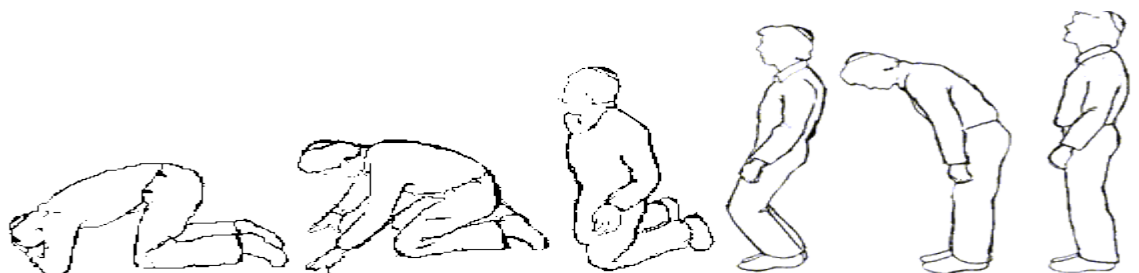
Muslims face Makkah to pray, so they are facing the Ka'ba which is the house of God.

Muslims bow during prayer to show respect to Allah.

Muslims prostrate during prayer to show their submission to Allah. **Shi'a Muslims also place their forehead on a piece of clay from a holy place when they prostrate.**

After the prayer Muslims can say Du'a which is a personal prayer asking for Allah's mercy and forgiveness.

Prayer shows you are focused on Allah, you are dedicated and committed to your faith and that you are obedient because it is a duty.



Zakah- means to purify or cleanse.



Zakah is a duty / obligation performed regularly, this is not charity.

It is a contribution of a Muslims savings of 2.5%. **Shi'a Muslims also give an additional 20% called Khums as one of the 10 Obligatory acts.** Khums is paid to Muslim leaders and used for the good of the community.

Zakah cleanses their money and possessions from excessive desire and greed.

The Qur'an says 'Be generous in prayer, and regular in giving... for God sees well all that you do'

Zakah is paid in secret with humility - no false praise or admiration is given because money belongs to Allah anyway

Giving openly is encouraged when it influences others to give- especially for Shi'a Muslims since one of their 10 obligatory acts is Amr-Bil-MarooF which means encouraging others to do good.

Zakah shows loyalty, obedience and a pure heart. It is important to create a fair society since Muhammad said 'all men are equal as the teeth on a comb.' (Hadith)



Zakah money is used to help: new Muslims, Prisoners of War, Schools, Mosques, Libraries, the poor and needy.



Sawm-fasting during the month of Ramadan

Sawm happens in the 9th Month of the Islamic Calendar

Whoever fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven.

Whoever prays during the nights in Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven.

Fasting helps you feel closer to Allah, to focus on your faith.

To show your obedience and loyalty.

To reflect on how fortunate you are, and feel grateful.

To think about the poor and encourage you to pay your Zakah money.

The Prophet Muhammad pbuh observed fasting so Muslims follow his example.

Who is exempt from fasting? Travellers, sick, elderly or very young, pregnant, nursing and menstruating women.

The Qur'an says "Fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may ward off (evil)."



Recommended Acts during Ramadan: recitation the Quran; asking for forgiveness; increasing good deeds and charity-during Ramadan Islamic Relief donate food parcels to poor communities; Sadaqah al fitr (purify one's short comings in the fasts) which means you try and stop bad habits like gossiping or smoking.

Hajj – Pilgrimage to Makkah during the 12th month of the Islamic Calendar

Hajj is a duty- you should go on Hajj at least once in a lifetime as long as you are fit and healthy and you can afford it

Pilgrims visit Makkah because it is the holiest city, 'the mother town' and the place the prophet Muhammad was born and died, the place the Qur'an was first revealed (on the night of power in the Cave of Hira).

You can go on Hajj on behalf of family members or those who have passed away.

Hajj is a way to cleanse sins and ask for forgiveness.

Pilgrims wear white, ihram, and perform wudu (ritual washing) to enter a state of purity, also called ihram. During Hajj pilgrims focus on Allah and not material things, so no makeup or perfume is worn and women cover their head and dress modestly



Muslims circle the Ka'bah 7 times to remind them of the unity of God this is called tawaf. The Ka'bah is important because it is thought of as the house of God and is where the Black Stone, given to Ibrahim by Jibra'il, is. Muslims try to touch or kiss the Black Stone as the prophet Muhammad did. The Ka'bah was built by Ibrahim for God and re-dedicated by the prophet Muhammad when he smashed the idols.



During Hajj pilgrims will visit the Zamzam Well- this reminds them that if they trust Allah he will provide for them (because the spring appeared when Hagar and Ishma'il were in desperate need).

Visiting Arafat- pilgrims visit Arafat and climb the mount of mercy (mount of Arafat). They stand before Allah to beg for forgiveness. This could be considered as the most important part of the Hajj. Arafat is where the prophet Muhammad gave his last sermon and spoke about uniting Muslims so this reminds Muslims of the importance of Ummah (brotherhood/community).



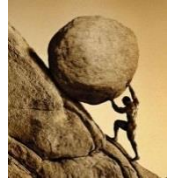
Pilgrims collect stones in Muzdalifah and take them to Mina where they are thrown at three large pillars representing Shaytaan, the devil. This shows Muslims reject the devil just as Ibrahim did when he pelted the devil on Jibra'il's command.

Muslim men shave their heads as a symbol of the fresh start from their sins and women will often cut a small lock of hair.

Sunni and Shi'a Muslims attend Hajj together. However, after Hajj **Sunni Muslims will visit the site of Hussain's burial in Karbala (Shi'a Muslims believe Hussain died in defence of Shi'a Islam so is an important martyr).**

Pilgrimage is commended in The Qur'an as it says "It is the duty of all men towards God to come to the House of pilgrimage, if he is able to make his way there."

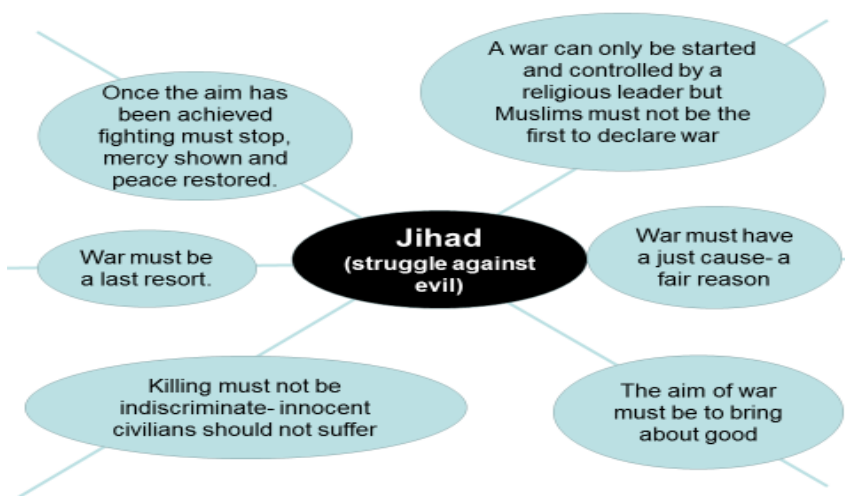
Jihad-To struggle for Allah



Greater Jihad-the most important jihad is the greater jihad - the struggle against internal influences which might affect one's soul. For example, the struggle to say your early morning prayers, to avoid gossip, feelings of anger or hatred etc.

Greater Jihad is your struggle to control your desires and behaviours and live a life that is pleasing to Allah. Muhammad said the supreme Jihad is against oneself. It is about avoiding greed, selfishness and laziness and showing kindness and generosity. It demands sacrifice e.g. of one's time, skill, money etc. But Jihad should also be about making the world a better place too. It is so important that some Muslims regard it as the Sixth Pillar of Islam.

Lesser Jihad-the lesser jihad is the external, physical effort, often implying fighting.



For Shi'a Muslims Jihad is one of the 10 Obligatory Acts. Although Muslims should promote peace there may be times when they have to go to war- However, a Jihad in war must only be in self-defence and only to bring about good.

Muhammad said '*be forgiving and control yourself in the face of provocation*' showing fighting must be a last resort and avoided however, '*fight in the way of God those that fight you*' shows that Jihad can be declared in self defence. Muhammad showed mercy to his enemies and Muslims should follow his example.

The 10 obligatory acts of Shi'a Islam- 10 acts that Shi'a Muslims believe God has made compulsory

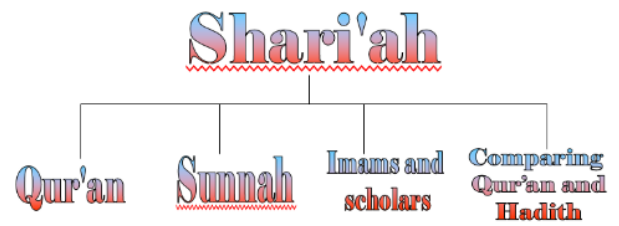
- 1- Salah: to say the 5 prayers combined into 3 prayer times each day as the Prophet Muhammad did.
- 2- Sawm: Fasting during Ramadan. Shi'a Muslims also spend three days in mourning during Ramadan to remember the death of Hussain at the Battle of Karbala.
- 3- Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah. In addition, Shi'a Muslims also visit Hussain's grave in Karbala (Iraq).
- 4- Zakah: payment of 2.5% each year to the needy.
- 5- Khums: an additional payment of 20% of their savings paid to Muslim leaders for the welfare of the community.
- 6- Jihad: the duty to struggle against sin. To remove any injustice and anything that might prevent worship of God.
- 7- Amr-bil-Marooif: encouraging others to do good is a duty to create a society where people live in peace and harmony.
- 8- Nahil Anril Munkar: discouraging the bad so that harmful actions are avoided and evil is forbidden.
- 9- Tawalia: having love for Allah, Muhammad and those who are friends of God.
- 10- Tabarra: to hate and separate yourself from those who are enemies of God.

Islamic Festivals.

Name of festival	Eid-ul-Adha	Eid-ul-Fitr	Ashura	Eid-ul-Ghadeer
Who celebrates it?	Sunni and Shi'a Muslims	Sunni and Shi'a Muslims	Sunni and Shi'a Muslims but for different reasons	Shi'a Muslims only
When is it?	After Hajj during the 12 th month of the Islamic calendar for four days.	After Ramadan during the 9 th month of the Islamic Calendar for up to three days in some countries.	During the 1 st month of the Islamic Calendar for one day.	After Hajj during the 12 th Month of the Islamic Calendar.
Why is it important?	<p>It reminds Muslims of the story of Ibrahim and Ismail.</p> <p>It is a way of giving thanks to God.</p> <p>It shows concern to share their wealth with others.</p> <p>It is a way for Muslims not on Hajj to show support.</p>	<p>To celebrate that they have achieved the month of fasting.</p> <p>To thank God for giving them strength and guidance during Ramadan.</p> <p>It is also a time for forgiveness and making amends.</p>	<p>For Sunni Muslims -It is a time to remember the prophets Noah and Moses.</p> <p>For Shi'a Muslims -It is a time for mourning to remember Hussain who was martyred at the battle of Karbala.</p>	<p>To commemorate the occasion Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) appointed Imam Ali (PBUH) as his successor.</p>
What happens during the festival?	<p>Like Eid-ul-Fitr this festival is a public holiday.</p> <p>Begins with prayers at the mosque.</p> <p>People dress up in their best clothes.</p> <p>Send cards and gifts and have special meals.</p>	<p>Men attend Eid prayers at the mosque including two sermons explaining the rules for paying Zakah.</p> <p>Visiting family and friends.</p> <p>Visiting cemeteries to remember the dead.</p> <p>Exchanging gifts for the children, new clothes.</p> <p>A special meal in the evening.</p>	<p>For Sunni's - Fasting is not obligatory, but many Muslims fast anyway, and enjoy special meals at the end of the night.</p> <p>For Shi'a -Public grief is expressed dramatically with processions, plays and religious gatherings.</p>	<p>Prayers</p> <p>Giving gifts</p> <p>Festive meals</p> <p>Ritual body washing</p> <p>Saying a special prayer about the return of the hidden Mahdi</p>

Shari'ah- means straight path.

The Shari'ah is the way of life followed by Muslims in accordance to how Allah wants them to live their lives. This lifestyle is derived from the Holy Quran, The Sunnah, agreement of Imams and then comparing the Hadith and Qur'an.



<u>Halal</u>	<u>Makruh</u>	<u>Haram</u>
<p>Something which is permissible in Islam</p> <p>'Consult your heart - righteousness is that which contents the soul and the heart feels tranquil.' Hadith</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meat must be killed in the name of God, quickly with a cut to the throat -make-up which is not tested on animals -Fair trade and free range produce -Marriage -Dressing modestly -Spending time with friends and family -Following the Qur'an and Muhammad <p>'I have left among you that which if you hold fast to, then you would never go astray, the book of God and the Sunnah of his Prophet' Hadith</p>	<p>An action which is disapproved but not forbidden</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Focusing on material items -Making sun of others -Lying or gossiping -Revenge -Not to trust Allah 	<p>Something which is forbidden in Islam</p> <p>"If you avoid what you have been forbidden, we will cancel out for you your evil deeds and will admit you to Paradise." Qur'an</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pork meat - Shirk <p>'Allah will not forgive those who serve other God's besides him' Hadith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Murder -Not fulfilling the 5 pillars when able to do so -Adultery

The Mosque- mosque or masjid means place of prostration.

Minaret

The muezzin makes the call to prayer from the minaret. It is a tower structure outside the mosque so everyone can hear the call to prayer.

Muslims are expected to pray together at Mosque on a Friday this is called Jumu'ah.



Minbar

The minbar is where the imam stands to speak .

There is always someone to lead Friday Jumu'ah this could be an Imam or just a respected member of the community.

It is a raised platform so he can easily be heard.



Wudu area

Mosque's will have a wudu area so Muslims can perform ritual washing before their prayer

It is important for a Muslim to be clean and pure before they pray to Allah

Shoe rack

Muslims take off their shoes before entering the prayer hall in the mosque

Women will cover their heads and ensure they are dressed modestly



Mihrab

Mirhab is a door shaped indent in the wall

It is important because it shows Muslims the direction of Makkah

Praying in the direction of Makkah is call qibla

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'If one of you sleeps and misses a prayer let him offer the prayer when he remembers'

Hadith

'Be generous in prayer, and regular in giving... for God sees well all that you do'

Qur'an