

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

1 SHAHAADAH (Testimony) Declaration of Faith



Muslims declare their faith by saying:
"Ash hadu anlaa ilaaha illallaahu wa ash hadu anna muhammadar rasulallah"
Which means "I bear witness that there is no god except Allaah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah."

The religion of Islam requires accepting some main Articles of Faith. These are the core beliefs - without any one of these, one would not be accepted as a believer. The acceptance of these Articles leads to the practical five Pillars of Islam.

The Five Pillars of Islam are the Fundamental duties in a Muslims life, which lead to living a good and responsible life according to Islam.

2 SALAAH (Prayer) Five Compulsory Daily Prayers



A physical and mental means of worship prescribed five times a day. These are to remember God and to seek forgiveness throughout the day. We face towards the Holy Kaa'bah In Makkah. Salaat (Prayer) is performed at set times: before sunrise, at midday, in the afternoon, in the evening after the sunsets and at nightfall.

3 ZAKAAT (Purity or Charity) Almsgiving



The Arabic word Zakaat means to purify. Muslims give 2.5% of their surplus wealth to charity every year. This shows obedience to God and prevents greed. Zakaat is given to the poor and those that are less fortunate than ourselves. It is believed that by giving charity, the possessions you keep are made pure.

4 SAWM (Fasting) Fasting During the Month of Ramadhan



For one month of the Year, Muslims refrain from food, drink and keep away from things that distract us from worship. This is done during the day from dawn till dusk. Although fasting is beneficial to health, fasting is a form of worship. Additionally it helps us to remember others who are less fortunate and do not have much food or water.

5 HAJJ (Pilgrimage) Pilgrimage to the Holy Sites in Makkah



Hajj is the journey to the holy sites in Makkah to perform various rituals. It is only obligatory once in a life time upon those who have the financial means and are physically able. The pilgrims adorn simple garment that strip away any distinctions of class and culture, so they all stand equal before Allah (God). The final part of the pilgrimage is at the Holy Ka'bah (cube) in the centre of the Great Mosque in Makkaah.