



THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Islam is based on the following five principles. To be a true Muslim we have to believe in these five essential rules, and practice them sincerely.

- DECLARING
 THE FAITH (SHAHADA)
- PERFORMING
 THE PRAYER (SALAH)
- O3 ALMSGIVING TO THE NEEDY (ZAKAH)
- FASTING DURING
 THE MONTH OF RAMADAN (SAWM)
- THE PILGRIMAGE TO CITY OF MAKKAH (HAJJ)

1ST PILLAR OF ISLAM **DECLARING THE FAITH (SHAHADA)**

Shahada means to testify and declare that 'There is no god worthy of worship except Allah alone and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah'.

Almighty Allah says addressing to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Say: "O men! I am sent unto you all, as the Messenger of Allah, to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: there is no god but He: it is He that gives both life and death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His Words: follow him that (so) you may be guided. (The Qur'an 07:158)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was asked,

"What is the best deed?" He replied,
To believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad)."
(Al Bukhari B1:V2: H 25)



2ND PILLAR OF ISLAM PERFORMING THE PRAYER (SALAH)

Salah is the obligatory prayer performed five times a day in order to attain close relationship with Allah and to prevent oneself from all kinds of sins.

Almighty Allah says:

"Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you, and establish regular Prayer for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that you do.". (The Qur'an 29:45)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

Verily between man and between polytheism and unbelief is the negligence of prayer."

(Muslim B1:H146)



3RD PILLAR OF ISLAM ALMSGIVING TO THE NEEDY (ZAKAH)

Zakah means Alms Giving. It is Compulsory Charity of 2.5% of the total amount of wealth, which is given to the needy and the poor, once in a year.

Almighty Allah says:

"And woe to those who associate others with Allah -Those who do not give zakah, and in the Hereafter they are disbelievers.". (The Quran:41:6-7)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

Whoever is made wealthy by Allah and does not pay the Zakat of his wealth, then on the Day of Resurrection his wealth will be made like a bald-headed poisonous male snake with two black spots over the eyes. The snake will encircle his neck and bite his cheeks and say, 'I am your wealth, I am your treasure.

(Bukhari B2:V24:H:486)



4TH PILLAR OF ISLAM FASTING DURING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN (SAWM)

Sawm means to observe fast during the month of Ramadan. During fasting, a Muslim keeps himself away from eating, drinking and sex relationship from dawn until sunset.

Almighty Allah says:

"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint." (The Qur'an 02:183)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven." (Bukhari B1:V2:H37)



5TH PILLAR OF ISLAM THE PILGRIMAGE TO CITY OF MAKKAH (HAJJ)

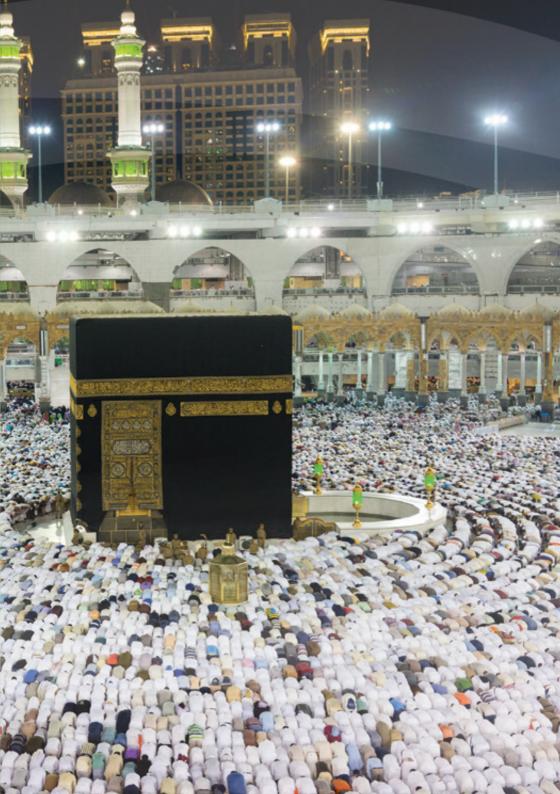
Hajj means to perform the pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah; it is obligatory once in a life time, on those who are physically and financially able to perform it.

Almighty Allah says:

"Hajj (pilgrimage) there to is a duty men owe to Allah-those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith. Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures.". (The Qur'an 03:97)

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever performs Hajj for Allah's pleasure and does not have sexual relation with his wife (during Hajj), and does not do evil or sins then he will return after Hajj free from all sins as if he were born a new." (Al Bukhari B2:V26:H596)



THE MAN OF THE PARADISE

Narrated Abu Huraira:

A Bedouin came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and said: "Tell me of such a deed as will make me enter Paradise, if I do it." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Worship Allah, and worship none along with Him, offer the (five) prescribed compulsory prayers perfectly, pay the compulsory Zakat, and fast the month of Ramadan. The Bedouin said "By Him, in Whose Hands my life is, I will not do more than this. "When he (the Bedouin) left, the Prophet said, "Whoever likes to see a man of Paradise, then he may look at this man." (Bukhari B2:V12:h480)



