

# about prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him)

Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in a long chain of Prophets sent to call the people to the obedience and worship of God alone. Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them all).

Muslims do not worship or ask divine guidance of Muhammad (peace be upon him). He warned:

*“Do not exceed bounds in praising me as the Christians do in praising Jesus, Son of Mary. I am only the Lord’s servant; then call me the Servant of Allah and His Messenger.”*

Just as Muslims believe that Moses (peace be upon him) was sent with the Torah<sup>2</sup> and that Jesus (peace be upon him) was sent with the Gospel<sup>3</sup>, Muslims also believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with The Qur’an to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied.

*“Allah will not show mercy to him who does not show mercy to others.”*

Some sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) include:

*“The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger.”*

*“Look at the person who is below you; and do not look at one who is superior to you. Thereby you would be able to better appreciate the favors that God has bestowed upon you.”*

*“Among the best of you are they who have the best character.”*

*“Be humble and do not harm or consider yourself superior to others.”*

*“Do not consider even the smallest good deed as insignificant; even meeting your brother with a cheerful face.”*

# about worship

We have established that Islam teaches that God alone deserves worship. So what is worship?

Muslim scholars have defined “worship” as “An all-inclusive term for those internal and external sayings and actions of a person that are pleasing to Allah.” In other words, the concept of worship in Islam is not limited to rituals such as praying, fasting, giving charity, and performing pilgrimage - it is much more.

A person can turn everyday activities into acts of worship by purifying his or her intention and sincerely seeking Allah’s pleasure through these activities. Allah’s Messenger (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

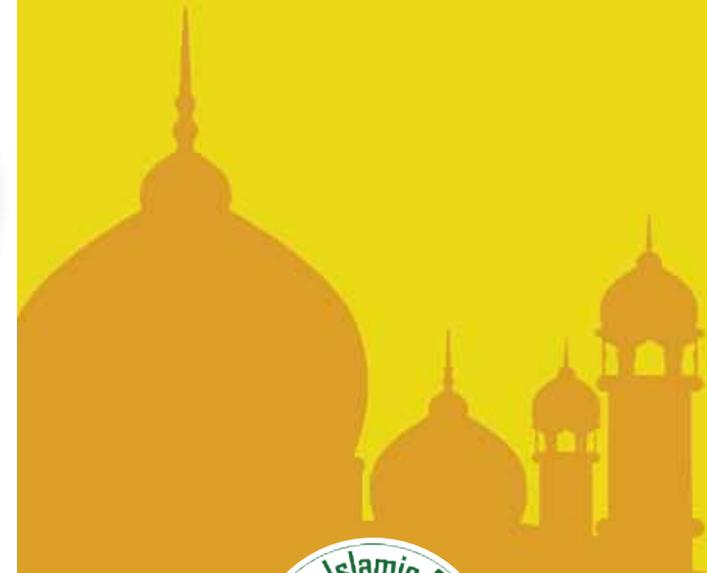
*“Greeting a person is charity. Acting justly is charity. Helping a man with his horse is charity. A good word is charity. Every step taken on the way to performing prayers is charity. Removing an obstacle from the road is charity.”*

Even earning a living can be done for the sake of God if done for the right reasons (e.g. working to support a family). If however one works to show off or earn fame then this can not be considered worship. The above might sound strange to those who view religion only as a personal relation between the individual and God and as having no impact on those activities that are not connected specifically with any religious rituals. For Muslims however, Islam is not just a religion, but a complete way of life.

Local contact :

# ABOUT ISLAM

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



PO BOX 42309 Charlotte NC 28215  
[www.AmericanIslamicOutreach.org](http://www.AmericanIslamicOutreach.org)  
[info@AmericanIslamicOutreach.org](mailto:info@AmericanIslamicOutreach.org)  
704.412.9040 | 1.844.697.8726

# about islam

Belief and Worship of The One True God is the cornerstone of a Muslim's belief.

Many religions also claim belief in One God however, they associate partners with Him. The following are examples:

- Worshipping or asking forgiveness of God through His creation
- Delegating some of God's attributes to other objects or beings
- Setting up rivals with God by elevating something to be in opposition to Him

The above mentioned beliefs or actions all go against the very principles of Islam.

## about Allah

Allah is the personal name of the One True God.

The name "Allah" is the combination of two Arabic words, "Al" and "ilah". "Al" means "The", and "ilah" means "God". These two words come together and refer to "The God", which implies "The Only God", or "The Only True God".

Nothing else can be called Allah. The term has no plural or gender. This shows its uniqueness when compared with the word "god" which can be made plural (i.e. gods) or feminine (i.e. goddess).

## Muslims believe that Allah is: The One:

- Allah is one and has no partners at all
- Allah has no equals or associates
- Islam rejects characterising Allah in any human form
- None of his creations resemble him
- There is nothing comparable to Allah
- No part of Allah is present in anyone  
(although his knowledge encompasses everything)

### The Praiseworthy:

- No being or object is worthy to be worshipped except Allah
- Any worship or prayer directed towards (or through) saints, prophets, other human beings or nature is considered idolatry
- Allah hears all who praise Him
- Everyone has direct access to Allah
- Muslims have a direct connection with Allah without the need for any intermediaries [such as idols, saints, angels, priests, planets, animals, graves or statues]

### The All-Just:

- Allah judges everyone based on their own deeds and everyone is accountable for his/her own actions
- Humans may distinguish themselves and earn Allah's favor through virtue and piety only (not through race or wealth)

### The Most High:

- Allah is over His creation separated from His creatures
- Allah is high above being compared to anything

### The All-Merciful:

- Allah is incomparably more merciful to His creation than a mother to her baby
- No one is "born into sin"
- Allah forgives all sins

### The All-Powerful:

- Allah has no rivals
- The concept that Allah rested on the 7th day of creation has no basis in Islam
- Allah has control over everything
- Obedience to Allah does not increase His Power, and disobedience to Allah does not decrease His Power in any way
- Not a leaf falls without the permission of Allah

To truly ponder the majesty of Allah makes one humble. This is what Allah calls us to do - to know Him through His attributes and names, realize His Omnipotence and Majesty, call upon Him, and humble ourselves to Him. Allah's beautiful names and attributes also include:

- The Creator and Sustainer
- The Forgiver and Pardoner
- The Appreciative
- The All-Knower and All-Aware
- The One who answers the one in need if he asks Him
- The One free and far removed from any deficiency
- The incomparably Great

## about the Qur'an

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of Allah<sup>1</sup>. Together with the authentic sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), it is the main source of Islamic knowledge. The following are some verses that confirm what has been discussed:

*Allah is He,  
other than Whom  
there is no other god.  
Qur'an 59:22*

*So set no  
equals to Allah while  
you know (there is  
none  
equal to him).  
Qur'an 2:22*

*And worship  
Allah and associate  
none with Him.  
Qur'an 4:36*

*There is  
nothing like Him  
and He hears and  
sees all things.  
Qur'an 42:11*

*Say: 'How do  
you worship besides  
Allah  
something which has no  
power either to harm  
or benefit you?'  
Qur'an 5:76*

*Your Lord  
says: "Call upon Me,  
I will answer you."  
Qur'an 40:60*