

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Islam is an Abraham monotheist religion that tells us that Allah alone exists, and there is an Allah Prophet Muhammad PBUH's Messenger (Al-Haqqani et al., 2002). Islam is the second largest in the world with a population of 24.1%. In 49 nations, Muslims form much of the population (Hackett & Grim, 2018). Islam teaches that God forgives, exalts and is exceptional and guides mankind through Holly signs and prophets. Islam is mainly taught by the Qur'an and Holly Prophet Muhammad PBUH.

Muslims claim that Islam is the entire universal version of ancient faith revealed by the prophets of Adam, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, among them. Muslims accept God's unchanged and final revelation of the Quran in its Arabic. Like other Abrahamic religions, Islam is also teaching the righteous in Jannah and the unrighteous in Jahanam on final judgment day. The Five Pillars of Islam, which are compulsory worship and observance of Sharia law, basically cover all aspects of life and community, including banking and wealth and women and the environment, are religious principles and practices. There are three holy sites in Islam in the cities of Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem (Trofimov, Y. 2008).

Beside the philosophical narrative, (Esposito, J. L. 1998) Islam is historically believed to have begun in Mecca in the early 7th century CE, while the Umayyads spread from Iberia in the west to the Indus River in the east by the 8th century. The Muslim Golden Age refers to the era, when a large part of the truly Muslim world witnessed a philosophy, financial and social prosperity during the Abbasid Caliphate. (Al-Hassan, A. Y., Ahmad, M., & Iskandar, A. Z. 2001). The Muslim world has developed through different states and caliphates, for example the Ottoman Empire, through apostolic exercises, exchanges and improvements towards Islam.

The majority of the Muslims are Sunni (75%–90%) or Shia (10%-20%). Roughly 13% of Muslims live in the main Muslim country of Indonesia; 31% live in South Asia, the largest population of the world's Muslims; 20% live in the pre-eminent region of Middle East and North Africa, and 15% are live in the Sub-Saharan African countries. Muslims in Central Asia are the majority and even in the Caucasus and South East Asia are predominant. India is the most populated nation of Muslims outside Muslim majorities. In America, China, Europe and Russia, there might also be a limited number of Muslim communities. Islam is the fastest rising religion on the planet (Figure 1.1) (Burke, Daniel April 4, 2015).

### **Objective:**

To discuss briefly History, Founder, Sacred book, Beliefs and Pillars of Islam.

## **2. DISCUSSIONS**

### **2.1 History:**

The history of Islam covers the political, social, economic and cultural developments of Islamic civilization. Most historians accept that Islam began in Mecca and Medina at the beginning of the seventh century CE, around 600 years after the establishing of Christianity. Muslims, though, accept that it didn't begin with Muhammad, yet that it was the first confidence

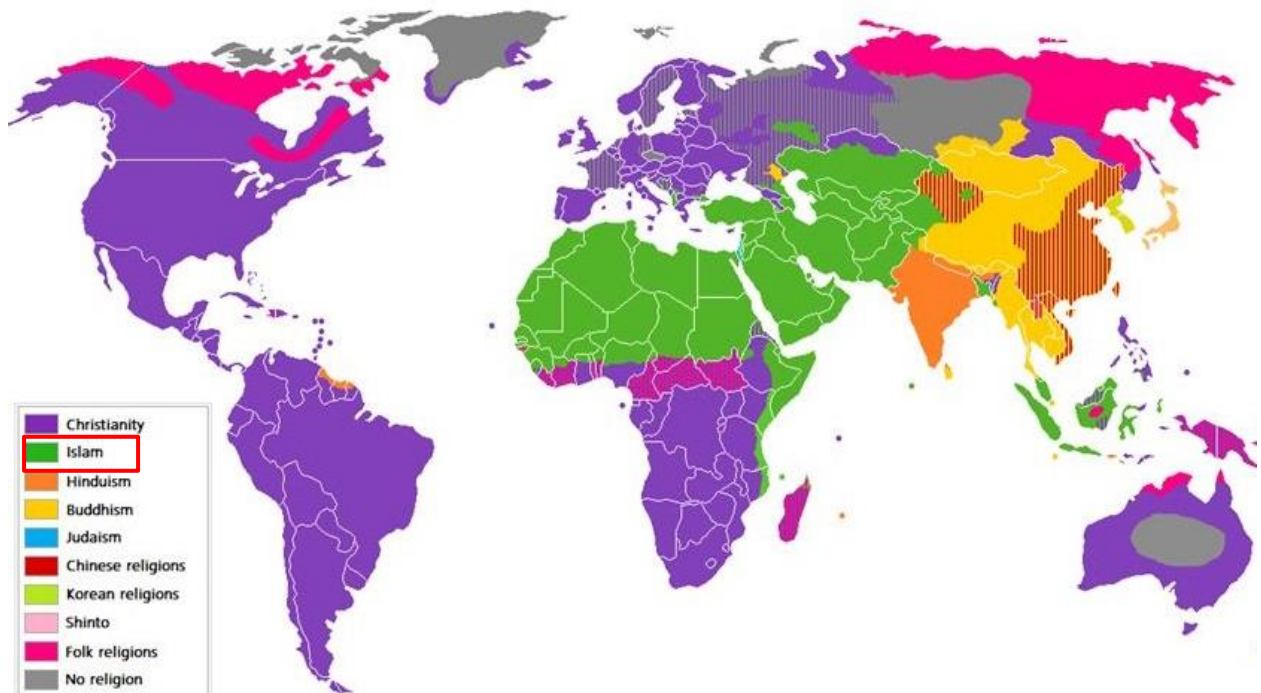


Figure 1.1: Islam as a second largest religion of the world

of others whom they consider as prophets, for example, Jesus, David, Moses, Abraham, Noah and Adam (Peters, F. E. 2009).

In 610 CE the Islamic prophet Muhammad began to embrace the divine revelations that Muslims found. The message of Muhammad ruled over His followers and strengthened Meccan resistance. Muhammad PBUH migrated to Yathrib (now called Madina) following his uncle's death. The omeyyad caliphate stretched from Iberia in the western part of the River Indus to the east in the eighth century. Local government, for example, those controlled by the Umayyads and Abbasid Caliphate were among the most persuasive powers on the planet. Later on, Islamic Golden Age period was started in which cultural, economic and scientific departments was flourished in the history of Islam, traditionally dated from the 8th to the 14th century. Few researchers date the finish of the brilliant age around 1350, while a few historians and researchers place the finish of the Islamic Golden Age as late as the end of fifteen to sixteenth centuries (Barlow, Glenna October 31, 2019). The following verse provides us with a good understanding that history has such principles that vary from rules and norms that only apply to men. In the Qur'an Allah says:

**“And we destroyed no township, but there was a known decree for it. No nation can outstrip its appointed time, nor can they lag behind”.** (Surah al-Hijr, 15:4-5)

The Delhi Sultanate controlled the northern Indian subcontinent by the middle of the 13th century. The Delhi Sultanate was an Islamic state in Delhi that stretched for a long period of time (1206–1526) through large portions of the Indian subcontinent. Five governments ruled successively the Delhi Sultanate. The devastated invasion of the Mongolians in the 13th and 14th centuries, and of the Tamerlanes from the east, along with the loss of people at the Great Bubonic Death, greatly reduced Muslim concentration on the traditional centres, from Persia to Egypt, but the emergence of the Timurid Renaissance, as well as major global economic forces, has been experienced by the Timurid Renaissance.

However, the Islamic gunpowder – the Ottoman Empire, Safavid Iran and Mughal India – emerged as exceptional global powers in Early Modern times. In the 19th and mid-20th century the bulk of the Muslim world was under dominance or the direct control of the European "Incredible Powers." From the last two centuries until now the attempts of Europe's state to dominate the world and become a modern nation persisted.

## **2.2 Founder of Islam:**

Muhammad PBUH was an Arab pioneer in culture, society and politics. Under Islamic rule, he was a prophet who had sent monotheistic education followed by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and other prophets to be preached and confirmed. In all major parts of Islam, He is regarded as God's last prophet, but there are differences among some modern domination. Mohammed united Arabia with the Quran and formed the concept of strict Islamic values. (Esposito, J. L. 1998).

### **2.2.1 Birth:**

The second Rabe al Awal Islamic calendar date tells us that he was born during the elephant year in Rabi Al Awal's twelfth year on Monday. When Makah's riding elephants targeted by the army. During the pregnancy of his mother, his father died.

His mother died when she came back from Al-Abwaa to Makkah when he was six years old. Later, He became prophet. On passing through this area, he sought Allah's permission to visit His mother's grave. God allowed Him, and He cried a lot to Him. He said, instead, **“Visit the graves, for they will remind you death”** (*Muslim*)

### **2.2.2 Marriage:**

When he was twenty-five, he married Hazrat Khadija. When Prophet Muhammad PBUH returned from a business trip He took maysarah, one of her slaves, with her merchandise to shame. The attributes of Prophet PBUH and the way people are treated impressed him. This made her want to marry him, and so she proposed him later. His wife Khadija died before three years of his departure to Medina and during her lifetime he had not married anyone else. After Hazrat Khadija's death He married Sawadah, and then Hazrat Abu Bakkar's daughter Aisha. Among all His wives, she was the only virgin. After Her He married Umar Ibn Khataab's daughter Hafsa, then he later married Zaynab bint Khuzayma. His most recent wife was Maymoona.

### **2.2.3 Prophet Hood:**

Muhammad PBUH was at the age of forty when He received first revelation. He was in the cave of Hira when Jibrael came down on seventeenth of Ramzan, when He received first revelation His facial expressions would change.

When Jibrael came down to Him He said, **“Recite!”** Prophet replied **“I didn’t know how to recite”** Jibrael said to him again, **“Recite!”** The prophet replied **“I didn’t know how to recite”** This occurred three times then Jibrael recite the Verses where Allah says, **“Read! In the name of your lord who has created. He has created man from a clot. Read and your Lord is most generous. Who has taught by the pen. He has man which he knew not.”** (Al-Alaq: 1-5). When Prophet Muhammad PBUH returned to home he was shivering with fear and informed Hazrat Khadija that what was happened. Thereupon she consolidated him by saying, **“Glad tiding to you, I swear by Allah! Allah will never disgrace you; you**

**maintain good ties with kinfolks, you always speak the truth, you bear the burden of weak, and you help others during adversities”.**

#### **2.2.4 Migration:**

Hijrat is the migration or the journey from Mecca to Yathrib, later called Medina, in 622, of the Islamic prophet Muhammad and his followers. In May 622, Muhammad left his home in Mecca to go to Yathrib, 320 km (200 miles) north of Mecca, along with his friend Abu Bakar, to be warned about a plot to kill him.

### **2.3 Sacred Book of Islam**

#### **2.3.1 Introduction of Holy Quran:**

The proper name of the sacred book Al Quran occurs several times in the book itself. The Holy Quran is the most widely read book in the world. The word Quran is an infinitive noun primarily, Quran collected things together. Quran is the most recited religious book. The literal meaning of Quran is “the recitation”. Muslims believed that Quran is the Holy Book of Allah Almighty which God revealed upon his Prophet. Quran was revealed orally upon Prophet Muhammad PBUH through Hazrat Gabriel over a period of 23 years. The Holy Messenger Gabriel appeared before him in the year 610 AD and asked Him, "Read", which he answered, "I am unable to read". Immediately the blessed messenger seized him and embraces him vigorously. This happened two more time after which the Holy messenger instructed Muhammad to recite the following verses:

"Read! In the name of your Lord who created  
Man from a clinging substance.  
Read: Your Lord is most generous,—  
He who taught by the pen—  
Taught man that which he knew not." (Quran 96:1-5)

#### **2.3.2 Division of Quran:**

Firstly, the Quran has been divided into 114 Surah (chapters). Then, Surahs are further divided into verses (ayah). There are 6,236 verses in the Holy Quran. Furthermore, Surahs are further divided into Rukus (paragraphs), of which there are 540 in the Holy Quran. There is another division, namely 30 equal parts called Juz. Furthermore, every Juz is divided into 4 Hizb (groups) which means the Quran has 120 Hizbs in total. There is also the division of Quran into 7 portions known as manazil.

However, with regards to Ruku, Juz, and Hizb and so on, these are divisions done by religious researchers for different reasons. One reason for these divisions is for reciting in seven days, thus the Quranic content is divided into 7 portions, with each part being referred to as Manzil.

So the fact of the matter is that these divisions are not coming generally from the time of Rasulullah (SAWA). It happened later for purpose of convenience like taraweeh, salaah which is performed by Sunni Muslims during Ramadan.

There is another significant and interesting division of the Quran and in regard of Surahs. The 114 Surahs (chapters) of the Quran are divided into Meccan and Madani Surahs. This implies that all the Surahs which were revealed before the Hijra (migration) are Meccan Surahs, and all the Surahs which were revealed after the migration are Madani Surahs.

### **2.3.3 Previous Holy Books recognized:**

Holy Quran require a belief not to trust only on its own but also hold a belief upon previous holy books which were revealed upon different prophets, it lays down clearly in the Quran:

“And who believe in what has been revealed to you, [O Muhammad], and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain” (Quran 2:4)

Muslims have a strong belief that what was revealed before was authentic:

“And there is not a people but a warner has gone among them” (Quran 35:24)

“And for every nation there is a messenger” (Quran 10:47)

Thus the Holy Quran accepts the previous scriptures which was revealed upon prophets of Allah and confirms its authenticity that before Islam there was also nations upon which Holy books was revealed.

### **2.3.4 Perfect revelation of Divine Will:**

Holy Quran claims itself that it came as the perfect revelation of Divine Will, Quran say's that:

“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed my favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion”

The certainty of Quranic revelations is, therefore, based on its perfection. New sacred texts were revealed as long as they were required, yet when ideal light was thrown on all basics of religion in the Holy Quran, no prophet was required after Muhammad. Six hundred years before him, Jesus Christ, who was the last among these nation prophets, the Holy Prophet being the prophet not of one nation yet of the entire world, had announced in plain words that he can't control the world to perfect truth, on the grounds that the world at that stage was not in a fit condition to get that reality:

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye can't bear them now. Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:12,13)

### **2.3.5 Method of preservation of Holy Quran:**

- Holy Quran was preserved in four different ways during the lifetime of Muhammad PBUH.
- The holy prophet had the entire text of the Quran from beginning to the end of the revelation of Holy Quran.

- Many companion of the prophet Muhammad learned it by heart and memorized so, they kept the text in mind.
- Some companion of the prophet memorized a small portion of the Quran, for the reason that where it is mandatory to recite the Quran in prayers in this way many companions memorized parts of Holy Quran.
- Quran was also written on many things for example it was written on stones, leather and leaves of dates etc.

## 2.4 Beliefs of the Muslims:

The religion of Islam has been around for many years. The believers have acknowledged only one God and that Muhammad is a messenger. Arabs and the social ills of society seriously disturbed Muhammad. He was mediating when he heard a sound when he was about 40. Muslims said that the voice of the Angel Gabriel said, "Proclaim." When Muhammad asked what should I do, the voice replied with an announcement for God's sake. So, Muslims have beliefs and are briefly discussed below one by one:

### 2.4.1 Believing in one God:

The Word Allah Is an Arabic interpretation for Lord or God and it is a similar word utilized by Arab, Christians and Jews. Muslims trust in one extraordinary, Incomparable, superior undivided God. Muslims belief that God is one and one in particular, he has no wife, and no children. He has never been conceived and die. Allah says in Holy Quran:

” who made for you the earth a bed [spread out] and the sky a ceiling and sent down from the sky, rain and brought forth thereby fruits as provision for you. So do not attribute to Allah equals while you know.” (Quran 2:22)

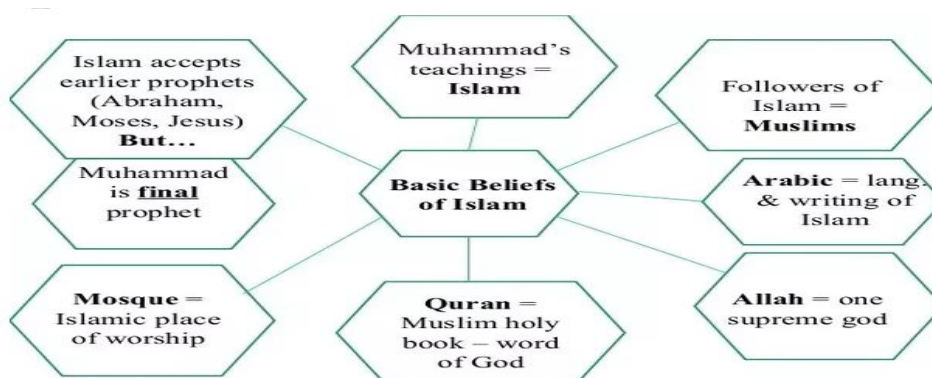


Figure 2.1: Basic Beliefs of Islam

The Quran specifically warns against those who promise they love God if they really seek support from people or mediators. Islam instructs that mediation is not necessary because Allah is close to his worshippers:

”And if My servants ask thee about Me—behold, I am near; I respond to the call of him who calls, whenever he calls unto Me: let them, then, respond unto Me, and believe in Me, so that they might follow the right way.” (Quran 2:186)

The Quran is packed with numerous titles of the existence of Allah, often by specific qualities and names. The Merciful, the Merciful, The Magnificent, etc. are all the names representing God's existence. By his formation, God is seen particularly. As human beings, Muslims accept that one may come close to recognizing and copying certain qualities, but Allah alone has these traits perfectly, in full, and completely. The Quran says:

”And God's [Alone] are the attributes of perfection; invoke Him, then, by these, and stand aloof from all who distort the meaning of His attributes: they shall be requited for all that they were wont to do!”(Quran 7:180)

#### **2.4.2 Believing in Angels:**

Muslims faith in the Angles created by God and that they are made from light and they never resist God. Among the Angles names we know:

- **Gabriel (A.S):** Gabriel (A.S.) is one of the four greatest blessed messengers. He is chosen to convey the revelations of Allah to the prophets. His name is Jibril, in the three places of the Qur'an. Besides, in verses, he is referred to as spirit, rasulun karim, ruh al-Amin and ruh al-qudus. However, in one of the hadiths, he is referred to as "namus." (Jones, D. A. 2010).
- **Israfael (A.S):** The holy messenger who blows the trumpet is called Israfael. His name is one of the four extraordinary blessed messengers in the hadiths. Israfael will blow twice, in the first; the End of days will happen, and in the next blow, the resurrection will happen. Because of this duty, he is known as the blessed messenger of Soor (the trumpet). (Jones, D. A. 2010).
- **Azrael (A.S):** His obligation is to grab the souls of individuals whose passing time from this world have come. He is called as "Malak-ul Mawt", that is, the blessed messenger of death. Allah says in Quran:
- "The Angel of Death, put in charge of you, will (duly) take your souls: then shall ye be brought back to your Lord." (Surah as-Sajda)
- **Michael (A.S):** He is probably the best holy messenger of four and He is answerable for the pouring of rain, the blowing of the breeze, normal occasions, for example, the requesting of seasons and the administration of supplications of the made creatures. (Jones, D. A. 2010).

#### **2.4.3 Believing in the revealed books and Prophets:**

Allah sent many prophets before Prophet Muhammad PBUH and He also revealed books on Prophets who was sent to different. Muslim has belief on all Prophets and their revealed books which were revealed on Allah's prophet at that time. Allah revealed four Holy books on His Prophets which are briefly discussed below.

- **The Tawrat:** It is the revelation given to Prophet Musa (AS) by the Almighty Allah. The "law" in the Quran is typically shown by the Tawrat. The Law of Moses in particular. Different individuals pair the Tawrat with the Torah of the Jewish faith or with the Christian Old Testament. Muslims accept the fact that Tawrat is the holy text, where real commands imposed Allah Almighty on Prophet Musa (AS). The actual substance of this blessed text is missing. (Hamdan, A. 2007).
- **The Zabur:** Zabur is the book of Allah, which Prophet Dawud (AS) has been revealed. In Arabic, this revelation is intended as a collection of tunes for Prophet Dawud (AS). This blessed book is not with us any more, simply like Tawrat. (Hamdan, A. 2007).
- **The Injeel:** The Injeel is Allah Almighty's book which was made known to the Prophet Eesa (Jesus, AS). Injeel means the book of the Bible, or is translated also as The Bible. As with the Tawrat, many people are incorrect to say that the Injeel is the latest tribute to the Bible. This is far from reality, in any case. Unlike other books of Allah (SWT), Injeel's real content is not available. (Hamdan, A. 2007).
- **The Quran:** The Quran is Allah Almighty's fourth and last sacred text. The latter prophet Muhammad (SAW) announced this. The philosophy of Tawheed or Islamic monotheism is his basic message. The noble Quran is Allah's principal text, which is still available. (Hamdan, A. 2007).

#### **2.4.4 Believing on the Day of Judgment:**

Muslims accept they will come back to God (Allah in Arabic) when they die. In this way, rather than the end, death turns out to be a piece of a continuum which extends into eternity. On the Day of Judgment, each individual will be resurrected to represent their lives. Allah describes this event in Quran:

"On that Day, people will come forward in separate to be shown their deeds: whoever has done an atom's weight of good will see it, whoever has done an atom's weight of evil will see that" (99: 6-8).

#### **2.5 Five Pillars of Islam**

The practical part of Islam lies in the five pillars of Islam. They are to make you aware of God and to bring peace and harmony between the physical wants and other worldly needs of an individual. The world isn't a fantasy to a Muslim. It is a place to work hard and enjoy; support physical and spiritual requirements; care and love; pardon and regard others. A Muslim carries on with an exemplary life in this world with a hope to enter in the paradise at



the Day of Judgment. (Figure 2.2) There are five pillars of Islam which are discussed as below:

- **Shahada:** It is to witness that there is no God in this world except Allah and Muhammad (PBUH) is the messenger and servant of Allah. The declaration of Shahada is important in the event that one is to be a Muslim and joins Muslims in worship.
- **Salat (Worship):** A Muslim needs to worship God five times each day. It is recommended to worship in a mosque in the form of congregation. One can even perform the worship by staying at home, at office, or anywhere else. Friday is the supreme day of Islam. All Muslims abandon their work and collect in the focal mosque of the territory for a sermon and congregational worship around early afternoon. Worship in Islam is an direct conversation of a person with God. It is an exceptionally spiritual and a constant reminder of one's obligation toward God. These five mentioned prayers contain verses from the Quran, and are said in Arabic, the language of the Revelation. Individual supplications, nonetheless, can be offered in one's own language at any time.

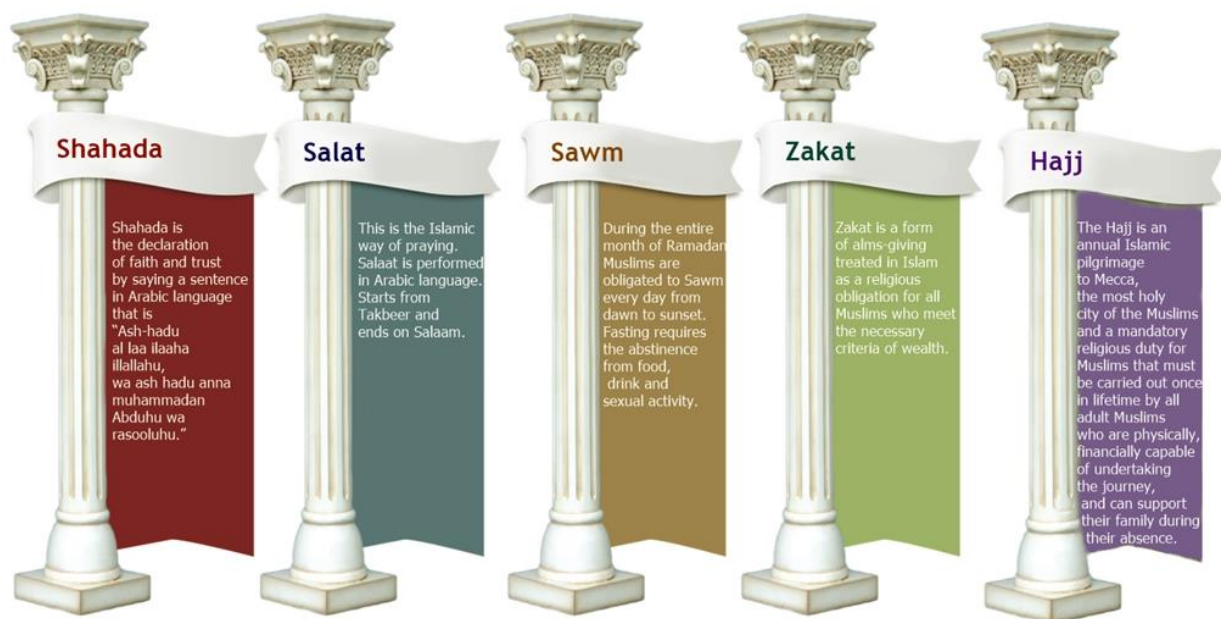


Figure 2.2: Five Pillars of Islam

- **Zakat:** Islam is the first religion that made Zakat mandatory on rich to provide for poor people. In Islam everything belongs to God. Zakat implies both "purification" and "growth". Zakat is obligatory charity and it is different from other voluntary charity. Qualified Muslims pay it on a yearly basis. It assists with refining their wealth. Zakat gathered are conveyed to the poor, orphans, and needed in the public eye. Zakat comprises of giving 2.5% of one's accumulated wealth excluding such things as main living place, vehicle and professional devices. Islam instructs that helping the needy helps one's spiritual growth. (Kamal-ud-Din, K. 2010).

- **Fasting (Sawm):** Fasting in the Islamic month of Ramadan is mandatory on all adults, sane, and healthy Muslims. Fasting implies abstaining from any type of food, drink, and sexual relations. Fasting lasts from dawn to sunset. Fasting shows self-control and patience. It is profoundly spiritual movement continually helping the believers to be conscious to remember God. Fasting instructs Muslims to be in control of their tongue, to be conscious and to be generous. (Kamal-ud-Din, K. 2010).
- **Hajj:** Hajj is mandatory on each Muslim once in a lifetime who can bear the cost of it. Hajj is to memorize the work of Abraham PBUH, his lessons of One God, and his sacrifices in the way of God. He and his child Ishmael constructed the Ka'ba (the House of God) (Figure 2.3) and since then people have been asked to perform the journey to the House of God. Around 2-3 million individuals perform the Hajj every year. (Kamal-ud-Din, K. 2010).

## 2.6 Islamic Holidays

- **Eid-ul-Fitar:** On this eve Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan and asking for the acceptance of the fasting.
- **Eid-ul-Azha:** On this eve Muslims celebrate the end of Hajj, with sacrifices, prayers and the exchange of gifts in Muslim communities everywhere.



Figure 2.3: Muslims pray at the Grand Mosque during the annual Hajj in the holy city of Meccas

## 3. CONCLUSION

It has been concluded, that the above mentioned discussion is far from being complete. It proves that, indeed Islam as the perfect religion for the whole mankind every person can get inspiration from this Holy religion. Allah the Almighty has picked Islam as the main religion acceptable to Him. Islam is the ideal religion for all mankind. Islam guides us in all parts of life whether it will be social, cultural, economic, and educational etc. Although it covers all aspects of life each and everything come under the shadow of Islam. Islam give us the solution of all problems of mankind no matter how complicated it is. Islam is the absolute power to those individuals who go for an ideal religion. Islam guides us how to balance our life, Islam tells us the way to live happy and contended in this world and it also tells us the way to become successful hereafter. In short Islam is a complete way of life for all of us is Allah's mercy to the entire humanity.