

Fact #13: "Jihad" in Arabic literally means "to strive" and not "holy war" as popularly believed. It refers to the lifelong struggle for self-improvement. Islam prohibits forced conversion. The only religious wars ever waged by the Prophet Muhammad^{sa} were defensive, fought to protect the very existence of Islam and uphold religious freedom in society.

Fact #14: The real purpose of life is to connect with our Creator. Islam guides the seeker of truth on this path of recognizing God and establishing a living connection with Him.

Fact #15: There is no intermediary between an individual and God. The act of confessing sins to another person is unnecessary. God the Forgiving can pardon one directly. Prayers and supplications connect us directly to God, building a one-to-one relationship with Him.

sa - Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, meaning 'May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}.

as - Alaihis-salaam, meaning 'May peace be on him', is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}.

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Baitul 'Afiyat Mosque
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Baitur Rahman Mosque
9570 River Road
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Baitul Islam Mosque
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15 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ISLAM

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Fact #1: 'Islam' is an Arabic word meaning "peace" and "submission" — finding everlasting contentment by following God's instructions. This noble objective can be attained by fulfilling the rights of the Creator and those due to His creation.

Fact #2: The word Allah is the Arabic word for God, just as Deus, Theos and Dieu are in Latin, Greek and French. In Islam, God is One and Unique. He is Flawless and Peerless. His attributes are eternal. He speaks to human beings today just as He spoke to them in the past.

Fact #3: Islam is the only religion to mandate belief in all the prophets of the world, as all are from God. The Holy Qur'ān explicitly teaches Muslims to make no distinction between them.

Fact #4: Islam rejects the idea of chosen races, ethnic groups, or favoured nations. God's blessings accompany those who are pious and sincere. He does not look to the colour of our skin but to the purity of our hearts: 'the most honourable among you, in the sight of Allah, is the who is the most righteous among you.' (Holy Qur'ān Ch.49,V.14)

Fact #5: To become a Muslim, one simply proclaims, "There is no god except Allah; Muhammad^{sa} is His Messenger" and lives his life in accordance with this declaration. There are no elaborate rituals involved.

Fact #6: Islam does not claim to be a new religion, rather it is the progression and perfection of faith as brought by all Prophets before it. The Holy Qur'ān refers to Islam as the religion of Abraham, Moses, Jesus and other Prophets (peace be upon them all).

Fact #7: Islam provides a road map for reaching God Almighty. It is not simply a to-do list or a collection of myths. The essence of Islam is to experience direct communion with God.

Fact #8: Understanding that God created all of humanity, Islam supports the equality of all people. It eradicates all forms of discrimination, including that which arises from racial and economic disparities. This is symbolically demonstrated in mosques where everyone stands shoulder to shoulder.

Fact #9: Islam accepts Jesus^{as} an esteemed prophet of God but does not consider him the literal son of God. Being the Messiah for the Jews, his mission was to revive the teachings of Moses^{as}. Mary^{as}, the mother of Jesus^{as}, is greatly honoured as a pure and chaste woman. An entire chapter of the Holy Qur'ān is named after her.

Fact #10: The Prophet Muhammad^{sa} has taught that "loyalty to one's country is a part of faith." A true Muslim actively engages in society and helps improve the well-being of others around him/her regardless of faith.

Fact #11: Islam explicitly protects freedom of religion: "There is no compulsion in religion" (Holy Qur'ān Ch.2,V.257). There is no punishment prescribed for leaving Islam. Everyone is free to believe or not to believe. It is that simple.

Fact #12: God Almighty introduces Himself as "The Gracious, The Merciful" in all chapters of the Holy Qur'ān. He also says, "My mercy encompasses everything." (Holy Qur'ān Ch.7,V.157)