



The Five Pillars of Islam



The first pillar
'Shahadah'

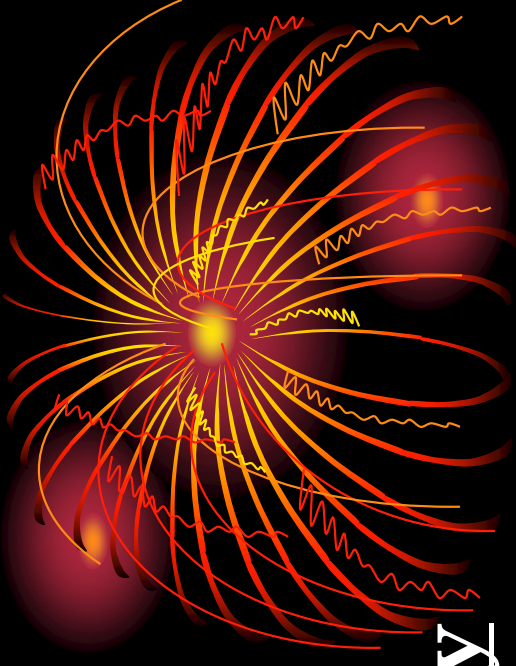
The declaration of faith.
Believing and saying the words...

*'There is no god except Allah,
Muhammad is the messenger of Allah'*

The second pillar 'Salah'

Praying everyday

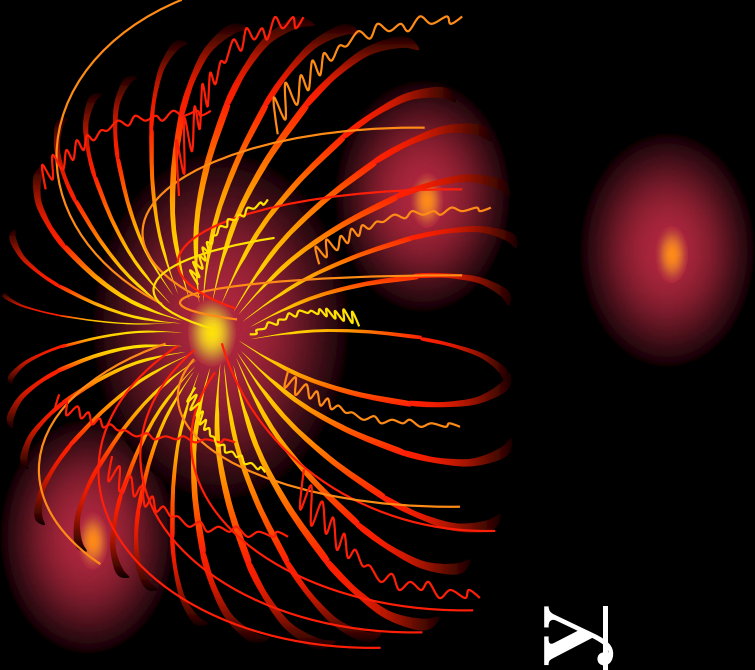
A Muslim may pray at anytime of the day, but *salah* is the five set times during the day that they must pray. These prayers are said in Arabic. Muslims kneel on a special mat and use a compass so that they can pray in the direction of their holy city, Makkah. Muslims must wash carefully and cover their heads before they pray



The third pillar 'Zakah'

Donating money

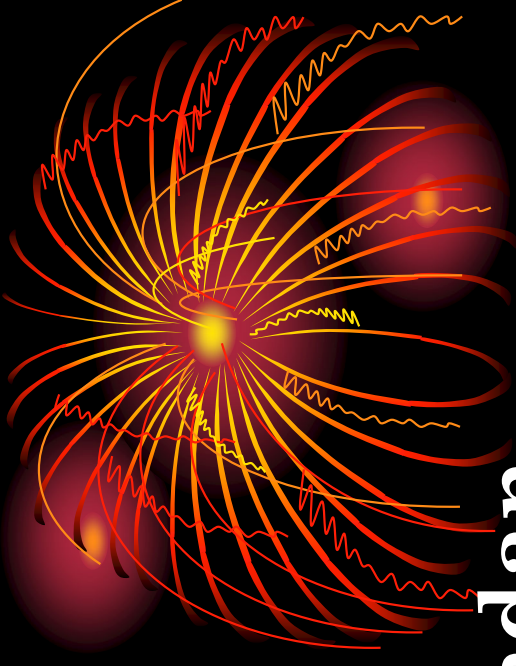
Muslims are expected to give away money to charity. This may go towards building a new hospital, or to help the poor and needy. This is an offering to Allah.



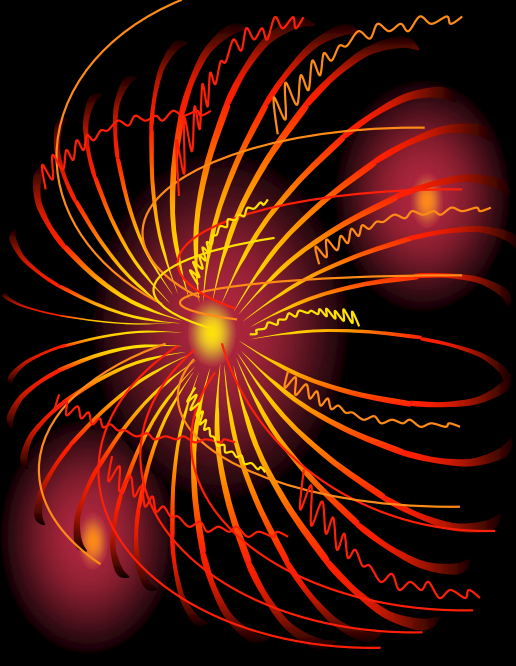
The fourth pillar
'Sawm'

Fasting during Ramadan.

The month of Ramadan is the time when Muslims try their best to live better lives and to read the Qur'an regularly. During Ramadan Muslims fast during the daylight hours.



The fifth pillar
'Hajj'



Going on a pilgrimage

Muslims must visit the holy city
of Makkah, in Arabia, at least
once in their lifetime.

Questions for thinking



- How many pillars do Muslims try to act upon?
- What is the Muslim word for God?
- Who do Muslims believe was the last messenger of God?
- How many times each day should Muslims pray?
- What language do Muslims use during prayer?
- What do Muslims do before they pray?
- In which direction do Muslims face when they pray?
- What word is used for giving away savings for good purposes?
- During which month do Muslims fast?
- Where do Muslims go on pilgrimage?