

PILGRIMAGE IN ISLAM

The rites, importance and relevance of Hajj in the context of the tenets of Islam

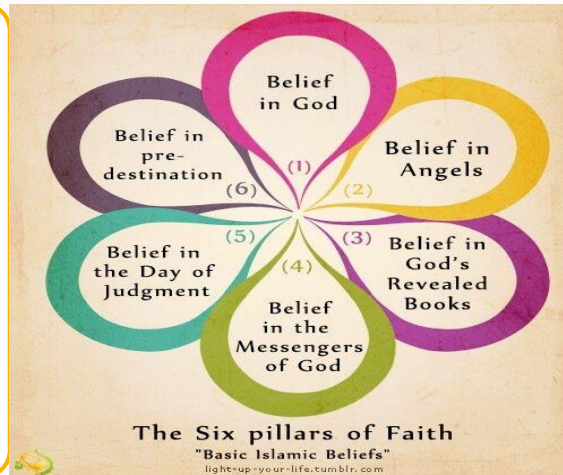
Pillars of Islam

Muslims are expected to uphold and practice five tenets, along with six principles of faith, along with essential values and core teachings, such as kindness, forgiveness, mercy, love, tolerance and empathy. **The Pillars of Islam are as follows:**



Pillars of Faith

Along with the Five Pillars of Islam, there are also **Six Pillars of Faith/Iman**, which are: Belief in God in His Oneness, Belief in Angels, Belief in Revealed Scriptures, Belief in the Messengers, Belief in the Day of Judgment, and Belief in qadar (pre-destination).



Core Values of Islam

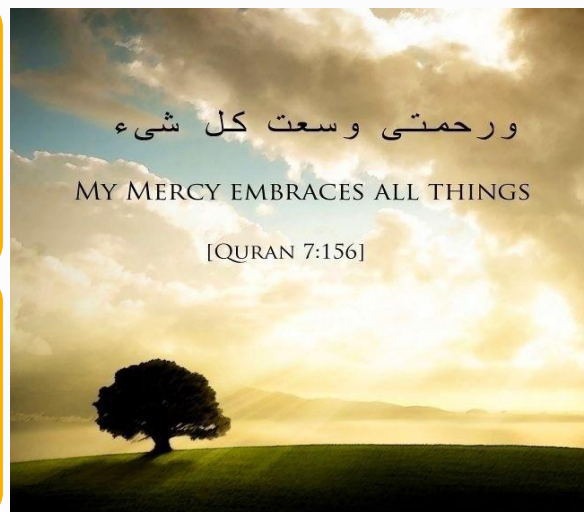
There are also core values that Muslims are expected to uphold.

These include: Integrity / Trustworthiness, being loving, kind and respectful to others,

Perseverance / Patience in hardship, Compassion, empathy and Mercy towards all of creation.

'Make up with one who cut ties with you. Forgive the one who did evil to you.' Prophet Muhammad

'Kindness is a mark of faith, whoever is not kind does not have genuine faith.' Prophet Muhammad



The Origins of Pilgrimage



ADAM BUILDS THE FIRST HOUSE
OF WORSHIP



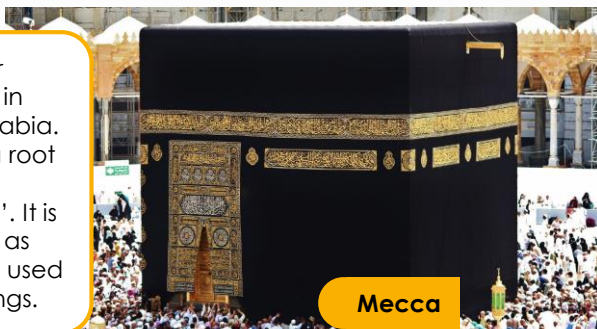
THE HOUSE IS RUINED AND LOST
OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS



THE HOUSE IS RESTORED BY
ABRAHAM, UPON GOD'S
COMMAND

ADAM BUILDING THE FIRST HOUSE

All Muslims go for pilgrimage (Hajj) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Hajj stems from a root meaning 'to circumambulate'. It is of the same root as 'hag' in Hebrew, used in holiday greetings.



Ka'ba is a cube-shaped building in Mecca that is covered with a beautiful black and golden cover. It is the first house built by Adam, and then restored by Abraham and his son to worship God and as a place of pilgrimage. It is also where Muslims turn towards as their **Qibla** direction for the five daily prayers.

HISTORY OF THE KA'BA

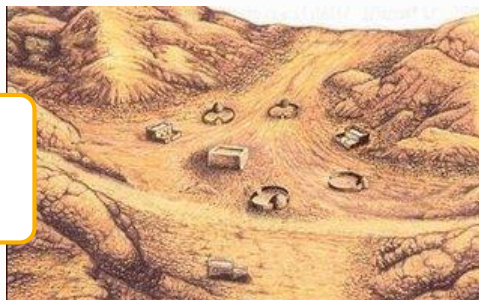
After Adam and his progeny, Ka'ba fell into ruin, and then lost to later generations.



When Abraham told Hagar and Ishmael to go to the desert by God's command, Hagar looked for water in this area. Desperate, she ran to and fro, across the hills of Safa and Marwa. God sent an angel, and miraculously a fountain appeared at their feet. The fountain, or the Water of Zamzam, still quenches the thirst of pilgrims. Thanks to this, Hagar and Ishmael settled around the fountain, attracting other settlers, turning Mecca, or Baca, the valley of tears, into a settlement.

HISTORY OF THE KA'BA II

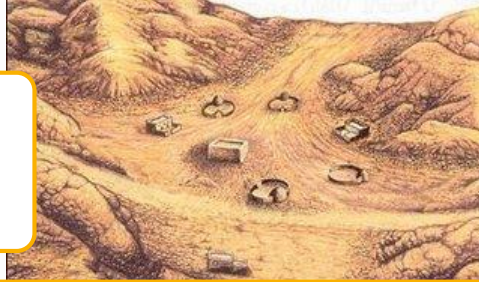
When Hagar and Ishmael settled in Mecca, Abraham came to visit them.



During his visit, Abraham was commanded by God to restore the Ka'ba by God, and he re-built the house of God from its foundations with his son Ishmael, and called pilgrims to worship God and do pilgrimage there.

ABRAHAM'S PRAYER

Abraham offered a prayer after completing the building of the Hajj, with his son:



"O Our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without cultivation, by the Sacred house: In order, O our Lord that they may establish regular prayer. So fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits; so that they may give thanks." Quran, 14:37

HISTORY OF KA'BA III

Abraham was later tested by God to sacrifice his son.



When Abraham was about to follow God's command, God sent a ram from the heavens and told Abraham that it was a test.

Arafah Day

The Plain of Arafah and Mt Arafah is where all the Muslims on **Hajj** gather on the Day of Arafah and engage in prayer.



Mt. Arafah

It is a recommended Sunnah (tradition) of the Prophet (peace be upon him) for those who are not going to **Hajj** to fast on this day. This is also where Adam and Eve is believe to have reunited after their fall from Heaven.

What Do Muslims Wear During Hajj?

A man will wear special clothing made from two pieces of unstitched white cloth. It is called **Ihram**. A woman may wear any appropriate Islamic clothes.

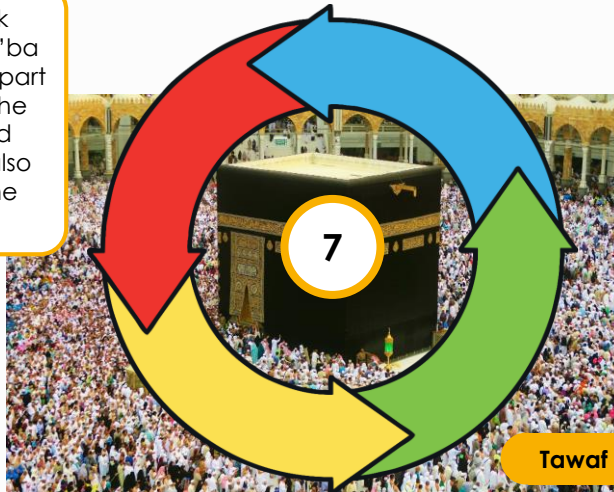
Ihram clothing shows the unity of all Muslims, that we are all equal in front of God/Allah and there are no differences of status, position or class between us before God.



Ihram

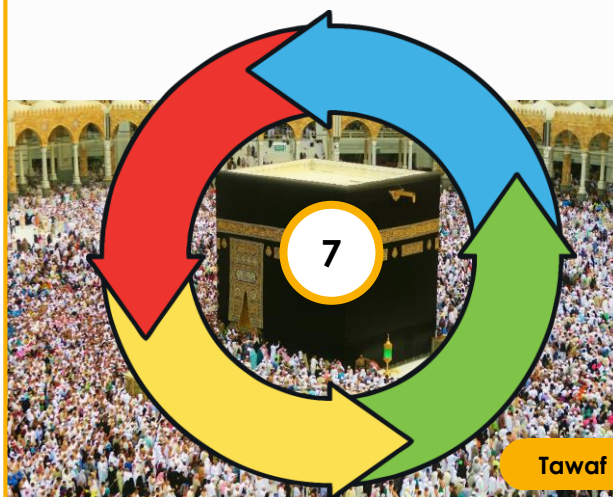
Circling the Ka'ba

Muslims walk around the Ka'ba seven times as part of their **Hajj**. The walk is called **Tawaf**. This is also the root of the word 'Hajj'.




7 Stages of Hajj

1. Circulating the Ka'ba 7 times
2. Pray All Day on Mt Arafah
3. Stay Overnight at Muzdalifah
4. Throwing pebbles at Jamarat
5. Walk briskly 7 times between Safa and Marwa Hills
6. Continue throwing pebbles in Mina for three days
7. Perform Farewell Tawaf in counter-clockwise direction



The Importance of Hajj

Hajj brings all Muslims from different parts of the world together and unites them regardless of their race, colour and culture.



Hajj is a spiritual, emotional and physical journey, in which Muslims meet other Muslims from diverse nationalities, cultures and regions.

They all come to this special place at this special time of the year for the same reason - to get closer to God and worship Him, ask for forgiveness and pray for all humanity.