

## Q 1 What is Quran?

The Quran, the holy book of Islam, begins with a short *surah* (chapter) called the *Fātihah*, [The Opening]:  
In the Name of God,  
The Merciful, the Compassionate.  
Praise belongs to God, Lord of the Worlds,  
The Merciful, the Compassionate,  
Master of the Day of Judgment.  
It is you we worship; it is You we ask for help.  
Guide us on the Straight Path: the Path of those You have blessed,  
Those who incur no anger and who have not gone astray

The word Quran literally means “recitation.” Muslims believe that the words of the Quran were originally revealed by the Angel Gabriel *JibrīL* to Muhammad in Arabic, and he then recited them to his followers. In this regard the Quran originally functioned as an aural/oral scripture that was meant to be recited, heard and experienced. The recitation of the Quran [*tilāwah*] is a science, an art, and a form of devotion, governed by *tajwīd*, the rules of pronunciation, intonation, and approach. Competitions and performances of Quranic recitation are held throughout the world. Many Muslims find the aesthetics of the recitation to be a powerful medium that helps them transcend the material and contemplate the spiritual.

### **In the light of Sunnah=**

The Qur’an is the original scripture – same language, letters and recitation. No place for human interpretation or corrupted translation ...If you pick up a copy of a Qur’an from any home around the world I doubt you will even find a difference between them.”

It was narrated that Salman Al-Farisi said:

“The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) was asked about ghee, cheese and wild donkeys. He said: ‘What is lawful is that which Allah has permitted, in His Book and what is unlawful is that which Allah has forbidden in His Book. What He remained silent about is what is pardoned.’”

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ بْنُ مُوسَى السُّدِّيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا سَيْفُ بْنُ هَارُونَ، عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ التَّمِيمِيِّ، عَنْ أَبِي عَثْمَانَ النَّهْدِيِّ، عَنْ سَلْمَانَ الْفَارِسِيِّ، قَالَ سُئِلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - عَنِ السَّمْنِ وَالْجُبْنِ " الْحَلَالُ مَا أَحَلَّ اللَّهُ فِي كِتَابِهِ وَالْحَرَامُ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ فِي كِتَابِهِ وَمَا سَكَتَ عَنْهُ فَهُوَ مِمَّا وَالْفِرَاءِ قَالَ عَفَا عَنْهُ " .

## Q 2 What is polytheism?

Polytheism is the worship of many gods. It comes from the word **poly** meaning, "Many," and **theism** where we get the word "God." In the world in which the Bible was written, polytheism was the rule. Ancient religions are characterized by the worship of a number

Polytheism is based upon the idea that the universe is governed by more than one force. Therefore there may be a water god, a mountain god, a desert god, etc. Each of these gods must be appeased. Therefore these different forces receive some type of worship. of gods.

### **Greco-Roman religion**

By the time of the establishment of the Roman Empire, the Greek tradition was already exerting considerable influence on the Roman, to the extent that once relatively independent traditions became somewhat fused. Equations between gods were

freely made: Zeus became Jupiter; Aphrodite became Venus, and so on. Originally, Roman *pietas* (sense of duty to the gods) was a good deal less

## **Egypt and the Middle East**

The Egyptian pantheon evolved into a complex form; many deities were theriomorphic but were presided over by such great gods as Re, the sun god, and Nut, the sky goddess. Re's transformation as Horus, with a hawk's head, was connected with the Osiris legend. The pharaoh was identified with him as the "living Horus."

## **Classical and modern Hinduism**

Certain gods of no great importance in the Vedic tradition came to dominate classical Hinduism, above all Shiva and Vishnu. The latter was associated with belief in avatar, or incarnation. Most male gods in the Hindu pantheon also came to be represented with a female consort, symbolizing the *Shakti*, or creative power of the deity

## **Religions of ancient Mesoamerica**

The Aztec culture, successor of earlier civilizations, together with the associated Maya culture, laid great emphasis on astronomical observation and on a complex religious calendar. Important were the high god Ometecuhtli, the morning star Quetzalcoatl, and the various legends woven round Tezcatlipoca, patron of warriors, who in the form of Huitzilopochtli was patron of the Aztec nation.

## East Asian religions

In ancient China the cult of heaven and ancestor worship were elements woven into the system of Confucianism. Numerous lesser deities were worshipped in popular Chinese practice, and the dividing lines between Confucianism, religious Daoism, and Buddhism were hard to draw. In Daoism an elaborate pantheon was evolved, modelled in part on the imperial bureaucracy, and was presided over by the Jade Emperor (Yudi). Other deities included atmospheric gods, gods of locality,

## Q 3 There is five pillar of Islam? Write down a detail note on any two?

Islam is built upon five pillars:

1. The Declaration of Faith (Shahadah);
2. Establishing regular prayers (Salah);
3. Paying Charity (Zakah);
4. Fasting the (lunar) month of Ramadan (Swam);
5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)

### 2. The Prayer – SALAH

“Indeed, I am Allah! There is none worthy of worship but I, so worship Me and offer the prayer for My remembrance.”Qur’an 20:14

The five daily prayers form the most important ritual of worship in a Muslim’s life; one each at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: **“Prayer is a pillar of the religion (Islam). Whoever establishes it, establishes religion; and whoever destroys it (e.g. neglects it), destroys religion.”**

Prayer establishes a personal and spiritual connection between the Muslim and his Creator, based on faith, love, hope and reverence. When prayer is performed correctly with complete concentration, humility and sincerity, it will have an enduring effect on the person, filling his heart with contentment, peace and closeness with Allah.

### 3. The Prescribed Charity – ZAKAH

“Those who establish the prayer (salah) and give the charity (zakah) ... these are the ones who will prosper.” Qur’an 31:4-5

All things belong to Allah, including wealth, which is considered as a trust. The prescribed charity (zakah) is an obligation on every Muslim who meets certain criteria (e.g. attained maturity, is sane, has wealth above a certain threshold). A small portion of wealth (includes 2.5% monetary and may include other assets) which must be paid annually to those who are eligible, as prescribed in the Qur’an (e.g. the poor and needy).

The Prophet (peace be on him) said: **“Allah has made zakah obligatory simply to purify your remaining wealth.”**

The meaning of the word “zakah”, is both ‘purification’ and ‘growth’. This is similar to the pruning of plants, whereby regularly trimming provides balance and encourages growth. By fulfilling this obligation, Muslims purify their remaining wealth, as well as ensure both financial and spiritual growth.

Some benefits of zakah:

- Purifies one from selfishness, arrogance and a greedy heart.
- Trains one to be sympathetic and compassionate towards the poor and needy.

- Reminds one of the blessings from Allah and encourages one to be grateful.
- Bridges the gap between different socio-economic classes and groups, and is a form of social security.
- Reduces poverty and ensures equality by making it obligatory upon the rich to share some of their wealth with the less fortunate "...so that this (wealth) may not circulate solely among the rich from among you." Qur'an 59:7

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