

Islamic Terms and Their Meanings

Allah and His Attributes

Allah is the Creator, Sustainer, and Lord of all worlds. He is Ar-Rahman (The Most Compassionate), Ar-Rahim (The Most Merciful), and Malik Yawm ad-Din (Master of the Day of Judgment). Muslims believe that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, the Ever-Living, and that He possesses Al-Asma' al-Husna (The Most Beautiful Names). Believers worship Allah alone and seek His help, guidance, mercy, and forgiveness in all aspects of life.

The Hereafter (Aakhirah)

Aakhirah refers to the eternal life after death. Islamic teachings describe Jannah (Paradise) as the reward prepared for those who believe and perform righteous deeds, while Jahannam (Hellfire) is the punishment for those who reject faith and persist in wrongdoing. Allah alone is the Judge on the Day of Judgment and determines the final destiny of every soul according to His perfect justice and mercy.

Malaika (Angels)

Malaika are angels created by Allah from light. They are noble servants who constantly worship and obey Allah without disobedience. Among the greatest angels are Jibril (Gabriel), who conveyed revelation to the prophets; Mikail (Michael), who oversees provisions; Israfil, who will blow the trumpet on the Day of Resurrection; and Malak al-Maut (Angel of Death), who is responsible for taking souls at the appointed time.

Jinn and Shaitan

Jinn are beings created by Allah from smokeless fire and, like humans, possess free will. Among them was Iblis, also known as Shaitan (Satan), who refused Allah's command and became the enemy of humanity. Shaitan seeks to mislead mankind away from the worship of Allah, but he has no authority over Allah's sincere and righteous servants.

Adam and Humanity

Adam (peace be upon him) was the first human being created by Allah from clay. Along with Hawwa (Eve), he became the parent of all humanity. Allah appointed humankind as His vicegerents (Khalifah) on Earth and entrusted them with responsibility, stewardship, and accountability. Human life and death serve as a test through which individuals demonstrate faith, obedience, and righteous conduct.

Iman, Islam, and Ibadah

Iman means faith and belief in the fundamental truths revealed by Allah. Islam means submission and surrender to the will of Allah. Ibadah refers to worship and every act performed sincerely for Allah's pleasure. Salihat are righteous deeds that benefit both the individual and society. Together, these concepts form the foundation of a Muslim's spiritual life and relationship with Allah.

Taqwa, Ihsan, and Nasr

Taqwa refers to God-consciousness, reverence, and awareness of Allah in all matters. Ihsan signifies excellence, sincerity, and striving to worship Allah as though one sees Him. Nasr means help, support, and victory granted by Allah. These qualities nurture strong character, moral responsibility, and a commitment to serving others.

Anbiya (Prophets)

Allah sent many Anbiya (Prophets) to guide humanity toward truth and righteousness. Among them were Adam, Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Yaqub (Jacob), Musa (Moses), Dawud (David), Isa (Jesus), and Muhammad (peace be upon them all). Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is recognized as the final messenger, sent as a mercy and guidance for all mankind.

Kutub (Revealed Books)

Allah revealed divine guidance through a series of scriptures. These include the Suhuf (Scrolls), the Torah revealed to Musa, the Zabur (Psalms) revealed to Dawud, the Injil (Gospel) revealed to Isa, and finally the Holy Quran revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Muslims believe the Quran is the final, complete, and preserved revelation from Allah.

Sunnah, Hadith, Seerah, and Fiqh

The Sunnah refers to the teachings, practices, and example of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Hadith are the recorded sayings, actions, and approvals of the Prophet. Seerah is the study of his life, character, and mission. Fiqh is Islamic jurisprudence, which derives practical rulings and guidance from the Quran and Sunnah for individual and communal life.

Arkan al-Iman (Six Articles of Faith)

The Six Articles of Faith form the foundation of Islamic belief. They include belief in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Prophets, the Last Day, and Al-Qadr (Divine Predestination). These beliefs define a Muslim's worldview and understanding of existence, purpose, and accountability.

Arkan al-Islam (Five Pillars of Islam)

The Five Pillars of Islam are the essential acts of worship that define Muslim practice. They are Shahadah (Testimony of Faith), Salah (Five Daily Prayers), Saum (Fasting in Ramadan), Zakah (Obligatory Charity), and Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah). These pillars strengthen faith, discipline, devotion, and social responsibility.

Islamic Character and Society

Islamic teachings aim to cultivate righteous individuals and a just society. A Momin (Believer) exemplifies trustworthiness and protection, a Muslim demonstrates obedience and devotion, a Muttaqi embodies God-consciousness and guidance, a Muhsin strives for excellence and benevolence, and an Ansar supports and serves the community. These qualities contribute to a civilization founded upon faith, knowledge, justice, compassion, and responsibility.