

# THE MSA NEWSLETTER

Periodical issued by the Muslim Students Association - NMSU Chapter <http://web.nmsu.edu/~msa> email: [msa@nmsu.edu](mailto:msa@nmsu.edu)

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### Did you Know?

- The most popular first name in the world is Muhammad
- Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different
- Your body is creating & killing 15 million red blood cells per second
- The Eskimo language has over twenty words to describe different kinds of snow.
- The word used in the Arabic Bible used by Arab Christians & Jews for God is "Allah".

## ISLAM 101 PART 1

The literal meaning of the Arabic word "Islam" is submission. According to Muslims, Islam is the total submission to the will of God or Allah. This Islam or submission to the will of God is achieved through performing what God commands and abstaining from what He prohibits. Muslims believe that God's message to man has always been, and still is, the same since day one on Earth. This message is the message of Islam, which is worshipping and believing in One and Only One God. Islam is not a new faith. In fact, Muslims believe that all prophets sent by God throughout the ages such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad all came to deliver the same message: the message of Islam. They all shared one mission which was to invite humankind to submit to One God. God says in the Qur'an (3:85): "If anyone desires a religion

other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (all spiritual good)." It's just so happened that Mohammad's followers were also named Muslims (submitters) and their religion, as a whole, named Islam (submission). This is similar to finding a generous person whose name is also Generous.

A religion consists of two inter-related parts: a part that deals with the beliefs of the follower (faith), and a part that deals with the laws, obligations, and physical practices of the follower. All prophets and their religions shared the first part: the set of beliefs, which as a whole can be known as a faith. Someone's faith is the set of beliefs they hold in their heart. The different religions of the different prophets of

God may have differed to some extent in the second part. They may have had different laws, obligations and expectations of their followers in their day-to-day affairs. However, as mentioned above, all those religions shared the same faith. God states in the Qur'an (2:285): "The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one of them believes in God, His angels, His books, and His Messengers. They say: 'We make no distinction between one and another of His Messengers.' And they say: 'We hear, and we obey. We seek Thy forgiveness, Our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys'".

By Waleed Alkohrani

### Test Your Logic

- Continue the Sequence in a logical way: M T W T \_ \_ \_
- Correct this formula with a single stroke:  $5 + 5 + 5 = 550$
- Draw a rectangle with 3 lines:
- Write anything here: \_\_\_\_\_

To check,  
send answers to [msa@nmsu.edu](mailto:msa@nmsu.edu)

### Interesting

- Even Antarctica has a telephone area code. It's 672!!
- Baskin Robbins once made a ketchup ice cream



Calligraphy: Muhammad



### Did you know?

- Algebra was first fully developed by Al Khwarismi, the "father of algebra".
- Al-Tusi, another Muslim, is the "father of trigonometry".

## SIMILARITIES AMONG RELIGIONS

Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity. As a monotheistic faith that originated in the Middle East, Islam holds some beliefs and practices in common with Judaism and Christianity.

All three religions believe that God is the origin and source of all creation. God is just and has provided basic rules for our guidance so that we may be good and righteous. We are capable of both good and evil. God provided us with some set of rules to live

by. We are to respect the dignity of every person and help especially those who are not capable of helping themselves, such as widows, orphans, and the poor. All three religions believe in the Golden Rule: do unto others what you want others to do unto you. All three religions promote modesty, moderation, and honest work. We are to submit ourselves to the will of God.

Looking at the two largest religions in the world, Islam and Christianity have some similarities. Both Muslims and most Christians believe in miracles and that Jesus performed miracles. Both religions are monotheistic, which is, God is omnipotent and angels exist as God's servants. According to both religions God has sent prophets, and Jesus was born to the Virgin Mary. God is the creator and the lifespan of this world is finite, yet we don't know



when the world will end. When the world's end comes Jesus will return and at that time Satan will be defeated and men will be judged to determine whether their souls go to heaven or hell. God is loving and forgiving. He has made an agreement with man, who has the freedom to choose between good and evil, and whether or not to obey God and his commandments.



## MATH IN EARLY ISLAM

Inheritance is one of the fields that Islam regulated by the divine revelation as stated in the Quran (4:7): "From what is left by parents and those nearest related there is a share for men and a share for women, whether the property be small or large, a determinate share."

Three men inherited 17 camels with different shares. The first person got a half of the inheritance, the second got a third, and the last got a ninth. They wanted to divide the camels among themselves, but they had a problem. According to the shares, the first person should get  $(17/2)$  or 8.5 camels, the second person should get  $(17/3)$  or 5.67

camels, and the third person would get  $(17/9)$  or 1.89 camels. This created a big problem. They were puzzled with the problem of dividing the camels without losing some of them.

So they came to Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (A.S.), the fourth Caliph to help them solve the problem. Imam Ali suggested to them to add one of his own camels to the herd. Joyfully, they accepted, and the total number of camels became 18. Imam Ali went forward and gave the first person a half of the new herd, so he got 9 camels. The second had a third, so he got 6 camels, and the last one got 2; a ninth of the herd. Their totals added to 17  $(9+6+2)$  and Imam Ali got back his camel after each man got his exact share.

Man communicates with God through prayer. Prayer can be communicated at any time although special times also exist. Muslims pray five times a day. Charitable actions, fasting, and pilgrimages are promoted in both religions. The most obvious common practice in both Islam and Judaism is the statement of the absolute unity of God, which Muslims observe in their five daily prayers, and Jews state at least twice, along with praying 3 times daily. The two Faiths also share the central practices of fasting and almsgiving, as well as dietary laws and other aspects of ritual purity. Under the strict dietary laws, lawful food is called *Kosher* in Judaism and *Halal* in Islam. Both religions prohibit the consumption of pork. Some Jews even believe in the concept and practice of Hijab (head scarf worn by Muslim women).

By: Maryam Kalantarian

## ALLAH (GOD) IS ONE

"Allah" (Lafz al-Jalalah) is a proper noun par excellence. No plural can be derived from it and it is according to the best authorities, without derivations. Allah is the distinctive name for the Supreme Being in the Qur'an. In the Arabic language, the word is never used for any single being. It is a personal name of God, neither attributive nor descriptive.

According to the most correct opinions, Allah is the Being who exists necessarily by Himself, comprising all qualities of perfection. The word connotes all the attributes of supremacy, majesty, perfection and

beauty in their infinitude and denotes none but the One and Unique God, the Absolute, Supreme, Perfect, Tender, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Gracious, Benign and Compassionate. The English word God, which is the common Teutonic word for a personal object of religious worship, falls far short in conveying that which is intended by Allah.

Ahad (the One) is an epithet applied to Allah alone and signifies, the One; the Sole; He Who has been and will ever be One and Alone; Who has no second to share in His Lordship, nor

in His Essence. Allah is One; One in the sense of His Essential Existence, not only in the numerical sense of the word, (which has its second and third), but the One which has no second in an absolute sense. One beyond dimension, beyond measure and beyond categorization; absolute in essence and manifestation, Unicity of Allah .

Source: Islamic Center of Irvine



## REVEALED BOOKS

Messengers who received revelation were :

- Nuh, or Noah(pbuh)
- Ibrahim or Abraham (pbuh) who received the *Subuf*
- Musa or Moses(pbuh) who received the *Torah*
- Dawud or David (pbuh) who received the *Zabur*
- 'Isa or Jesus (pbuh) who received the *Injil*

Muhammad (pbuh) who received the *Qur'an*  
\* *pbuh* = *Peace Be Upon Him*

All the revelations before the Qur'an were sent at particular times in history to guide particular communities or peoples. None of the revelations (before the Qur'an) were preserved for the future generations because they were meant only for that time.

Though the Qur'an does not contain all the information that was in the previous revelations, we do find in it (the Qur'an) all the principles that Allah wished us to follow for our guidance.

Since Prophet Muhammad was the final messenger he was sent as a guide to all human beings till the end of times. The revelation he received, Qur'an, was to be the final guidance from Allah and was therefore also meant to guide all human beings till the end of times.

As a final revelation from Allah, the Qur'an therefore was meant to be preserved and has remained unchanged from the time of its revelation till today. The Qur'an has thus remained in its original form.

The Qur'an has been preserved in memory by millions of memorizers of the Qur'an (hafiz/huffaaz) throughout history.

It has also been saved in written form from the earliest times till today. Qur'ans from the time of the companions are still found today. The Qur'an of the third Caliph, 'Uthman, is to be found in the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul in Turkey.

All the Qur'ans in the world are the same and the language of the Qur'an (Arabic) is still a living and a spoken language of the world. Arabic is the 5th most commonly spoken language in the world at present.

Source: Islamic Center of Irvine

## Conduct

Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported: Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) observed: He who believes in Allah and the Last Day should either utter good words or better keep silent; and he who believes in Allah and the Last Day should treat his neighbor with kindness; and he who believes in Allah and the Last Day should show hospitality to his guest.  
Source: Sahih Muslim: 67

## Interesting

- You're subject to fines and/or imprisonment for making "ugly faces" at dogs in Oklahoma.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- Owls are one of the only birds who can see the color blue.
- Rice paper does not have any rice in it.



The MSA newsletter is an effort done by the Muslim Students Association at NMSU to:

- Serve as a communications medium among MSA members and non-MSA members.
- To disseminate knowledge about Islam and Muslim-related topics in an effort to bring about better mutual understanding among students of different faiths.
- To disseminate general knowledge and to entertain!

### Contributions Are Welcome....

- Want us to write about a certain issue?
- Want to respond to an article?
- Want to send us your thoughts/letters/poems?
- Want to contribute? Want to write in the MSA Newsletter?

Send us an email [msa@nmsu.edu](mailto:msa@nmsu.edu)

• This Newsletter, with other material, is available @ our website

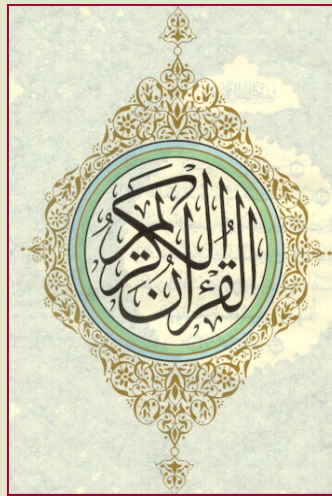
<http://web.nmsu.edu/~msa>



### Blessings ...

“Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him.”

Quran: Chapter 112.



Take advantage of five things before five things seize you:

1. Your youth before your old age
2. Your health before your sickness
3. Your wealth before your poverty
4. Your spare time before your busy
5. Your life before your death

Prophet Muhammad  
(peace be upon him)  
(narrated by Abu Dharr)

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