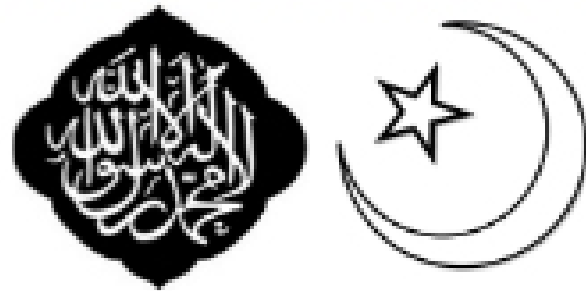


Islam

Islam

- **Islam is the religion and Muslim means the one who believes in the religion of Islam.**
- It is the **second largest** religion in the world.
 - o There are about **one billion** Muslims in the world.



The Muslim World

- Comprised of:
 1. **22 Arab Countries** (20% of Muslim population). Among countries largest is **Egypt.**
200 million
 2. **Largest segment** of Muslim population is in **Indo-Pakistan subcontinent.**
200 million
 3. **Indonesia** is the **largest Muslim country.**
100 million
 4. **Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan** each has **50 million, 50 million, and 40 million.**
140 million
 5. **Five Republics of former Soviet Union.**
50 million
 6. **China**
50 million
 7. **Africa: Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya**
100 million
- **Comprised of diverse groups of people:**
 - o Race, ethnicity, languages, local customs and traditions
- **United by the religion of Islam**
 - o Evidenced in performance of Pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslims
 - o Ex: Malcolm X
 - o Afghani, **Symbol of Islam is “Shahada”**

Islam

- **Islam means submission to the will of God.**
- **Monotheistic religions**, falls within Judaic Christian tradition
- **The Children of Abraham**
 - o Jews, Christians, and Muslims
 - o **Origins of Islam** traced through son, **Ishmael**
 - o **Animal sacrifice**: relates to willingness to sacrifice his soon
- **God of Jews, Christians, Muslims are same:**
 - o He is Jahweh in Judaism
 - o **Theos** (Greek)
 - o **Deos** (Latin)
 - o **Allah** (Arabic)
 - o **El (Elohim)** in Hebrew
- **Similarities and Differences between Islam and Judaism/Christianity:**
 1. Monotheistic
 2. Prophets
 3. Scripture (**Qu'ran**)
 4. Day of Judgment
 5. Heaven and Hell
 - Heaven a geographical place; Paradise
 - Hell also a place
 6. Angels and Lucifer
 7. Jesus in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
 - In Islam, a **Prophet**, not God incarnate
 - **Hurries**

Arabia Before Muhammad

- At the time before Muhammad was born:
 1. They were idols worshipers. It is said there were **360** pagan gods. Some goddess were cherished highly they are:
 - a) al-Lat
 - b) al-Manat
 - c) al-'Uzz
 2. Used to hold on to customs of forefathers, had tribal mentality. Were very conscious of their last name – held patriarchal identity.
 3. Used to drink heavily.
 4. Carried on fights and battles against each other for generations.
 5. They used to practice usury.
 6. Slavery was not uncommon amongst them.

Muhammad

- **Born in 570 C.E. in the city of Mecca**
- **Dead in 632 C.E. in Medina (Yathrib)**
- Father Abdallah died 6 months before Muhammad was born
- Mother Amina died when he was about 6 years old
- Who raised him?
- Born in most prominent tribe of Mecca named **Quraysh**
- Little known about childhood except was shy, withdrawn, never practiced idol worship
- Started his career as a caravan driver, for a great businesswoman, **Khadija**.
- Muhammad worked until he was about 25 years old.
- Khadija found him to be very diligent, hardworking, and honest.
- Therefore, she proposed herself into marriage with him.
- At time of marriage, she was 40 years old, 15 years senior to him.
- Muhammad received **first revelation** through **angel Gabriel** at age 40 while meditating in the cave Hira.
- Angel Gabriel asked him to recite.
- Muhammad said:
 - o *"I do not know how to recite."*
- When Gabriel repeated request **3 times**, Muhammad started reciting.
- This **first revelation** (Chapter, Sure) is called **Recitation Chapter**, iqra.
 - o P. 434 – 435
- Started preaching of One God, equality among slaves/masters and poor/rich, denounced usury.
- As a result, the Meccans became enemies of Muhammad, and told him to give up his message..
- **TWO IMPORATNT INCIDENTS MUST BE NOTED:**
 1. "Even if you make me king of Mecca, I would not give up the message of one God."
 2. The Satanic Verses
- When the Meccans started giving roubles to early believers and Muhammad, he left Mecca and went to Medina where Jews and Christians used to reside.
- He immigrated in year **662 A.D.** This is year Muslims started their calendar year one.
 - o *Hijra*
- From Medina, Muhammad and early followers carried out several battles against Meccans.
 - o Finally able to conquer Mecca in **630 A.D.**
- Thereafter, Muhammad dies at the age of **62** in the year **632**.

The Qu'ran (Koran)

- **Qur'an** is Arabic word **meaning recitation** or that which is going to be recited.
- Equivalent to Greek word "biblos" (book) which we have the word "Bible", the (sacred) book.