

ISLAM

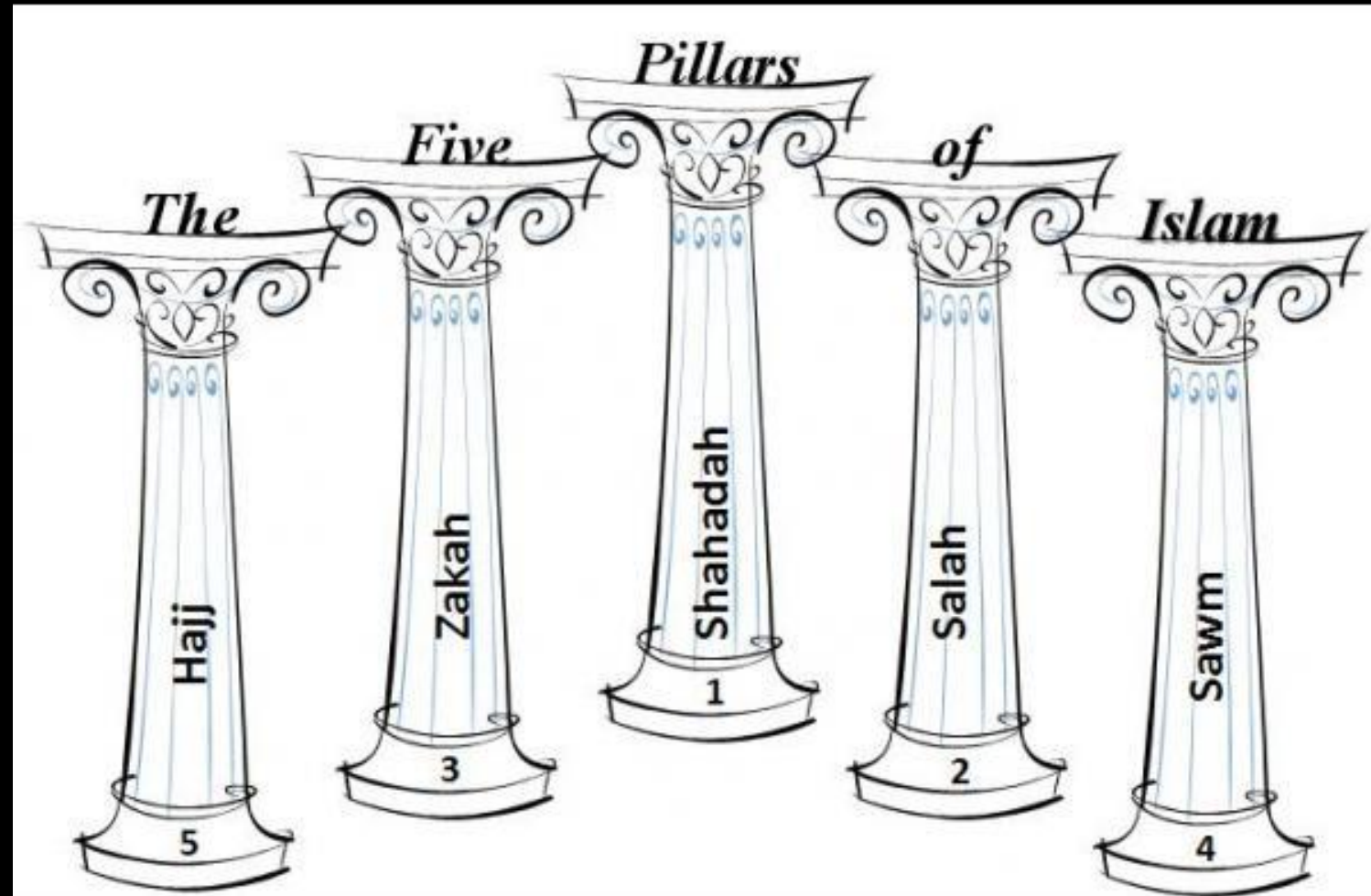
JACI ENGLEKING

THE FOUNDING OF ISLAM

- Islam was founded by the prophet Muhammad in 610 AD, who claimed to have been visited by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel was sent by Allah (Arabic for "God") to deliver a book called the Qur'an, which held the words of Allah.
- Most historians believe Islam originated in Mecca

PRACTICES

- The Qur'an instructs Muslims to follow the Five Pillars of Islam; Shahada, Salat, Zakāt, Sawm, and Hajj



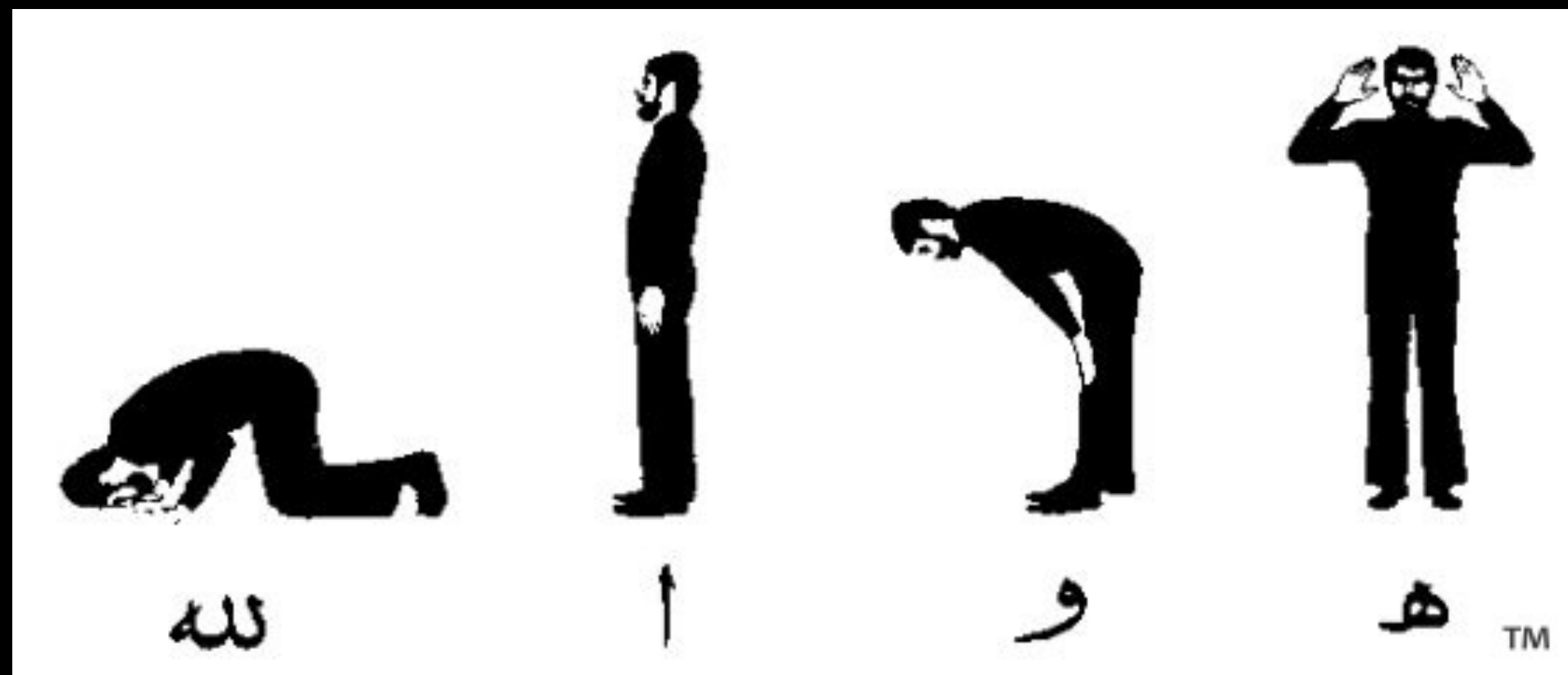
SHAHADA

- The Muslim profession of faith
- "La ilaha illa Allah wa-Muhammad rasul Allah"
- "There is no god but God and Muhammad is the prophet of God."
- These are the two fundamental beliefs of Islam



SALAT

- A ritual prayer performed 5 times a day
- At dawn (al-fajr), midday (al-zuhr), afternoon (al-'asr), sunset (al-maghrib), and evening (al-'isha)
- Always pray in the direction (qibla) of the Ka'ba shrine in Mecca
- More special when performed with others
- Most important prayer of the week is the midday prayer at the mosque on Fridays
- Always followed with wudu', washing hands, feet, and face with water, and if needed, sand
- A muezzin announces the call to prayer (adhan), utilizing the radio and an app called "salat pager" that notifies someone when prayer time is approaching
- Prayer concludes with the taslima "Peace be upon you"



ZAKĀT

- Obligatory donating of money to the needy and poor
- Required of Muslim adults who are of "sound mind and means", and have a certain amount of wealth (Nisaab)
- If you meet Nissab, you must then pay 2.5% of the requirement
- Zakāt is important for remembering that Allah owns everything, and to use this to remember Allah and to use his wealth to help others. It also teaches self-discipline, honesty, and to rid yourself of greed
- The Qur'an mentions eight groups of people who are to receive Zakāt; Fuqara' (poor), Al-Maskin (needy), Aamileen (Zakāt collector), Muallafatul Quloob (poor and needy who recently converted), Ar-Riqaab (slaves to buy their freedom), Ibnus-Sabeel (stranded traveler needing help), Al Ghaarimeen (debtor), Fi Sabeelillah (those away from home but in the path of Allah)
- The literal meaning is "to cleanse" or "purify"
- Cannot be used for building mosques, bury the deceased, or to clear the debt of the deceased
- Can donate jewelry and precious metals (common payment is in gold and silver), cash, and cattle and crops

SAWM

- Practice of fasting to gain self-control, strengthen their faith, and gain compassion for the poor and needy; suppress their needs for the obedience to Allah
- Happens during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar
- In a span of 29-30 days, adult Muslims must abstain from food, drink, smoking, and sexual activity during daylight hours
- Those exempt are the mentally and physically ill, those under 12 years, the elderly, those who are breast feeding, menstruating, and traveling
- If able, you must make up Ramadan at another time or donate to the needy
- Most eat a large meal before sunrise (suhur) and then "break" the fast with dates and water, as Muhammad did
- Ramadan ends with the Eid al-Fitr (Festival of the Breaking of the Fast)
- Includes family and social gatherings, gift giving, shopping, and feasting



HAJJ

- At least once in a Muslim's life, they must make the journey to the sacred city Mecca
- Must take place during Dhu-al Hajj (last month)
- Exceptions for those who are physically and financially unable, and the Qur'an instructs not to if it will bring any suffering to the family, but could fulfill this by sending someone else instead
- Was one of the last acts of worship Muhammad performed before he died
- Brings together followers from all over the world
- They must perform several holy rituals, like walking around the Ka'ba seven times (tawaf) and then touching it
- Men are required to wear ihram (purity) garments, that include two white seamless sheets wrapped around the body and sandals, women usually dress in white with only hands and face exposed
- Can't cut their nails or hair, have sexual relations, argue, fight, or hunt
- About 2 million Muslims each year journey to Mecca, and cause crowd control problems and riots- in 2015 at least 2,431 people were killed in a stampede for unknown reasons



QUR'AN

- The Holy Book or Scriptures of the Muslims
- Collection of the verbal revelations given to Muhammad
- Unchanged over the past 1400 years; all copies are identical; only found in Arabic
- Contains the complete guidance for mankind; the Nature of the Spiritual World, The Law and Commandments, Historical Accounts, The Wisdom, and The Prophecies



RELATIONSHIP WITH JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

- All are monotheistic
- Closely connected; the Qur'an states that Judaism and Christianity was revealed to Muhammad to be the same, and Allah is God of all of them
- Approval; People of the Book; Muslim man is allowed to marry a Jewish or Christian woman
- Believe the prophets of Judaism and Christianity are true, but Muhammad is the last and greatest
- Doesn't believe in the divinity of Jesus or the Trinity, or the resurrection of Jesus
- Believe all these followers will be rewarded in the afterlife

CULTURE: LANGUAGE

- Early literature is written in Arabic and is the first language. Persian is the second language. Then Turkish, and Indo-Islamic (found in India)

FOOD

- Qur'an dictates what foods are "harām" - meat from animals that die of themselves, blood, the meat of swine, and dedicated animals
- All vegetarian cuisine is acceptable
- Law of Necessity
- Dhabīhah- method of animal slaughter; mention name of Allah, People of the Book, quick, no suffering, can't see the blade
- Common foods of Ramadan- Amar al-Deen (apricots), Tamar Hindi (sour, chilled drink), Biryani (rice dish) Couscous (granulated semolina served with meat, chicken, fish, or vegetables) Kunafa (dessert from spun shredded wheat)
- Because the Islam religion is widespread, there aren't many common foods eaten by all Muslims



DRESS

- Men and women dress modestly
- Clothing must cover whole body except for hands and face, can't be see through, not distracting or meant to be shown off
- Men should not wear silk or gold jewelry
- The Qur'an doesn't require covering the head, but women traditionally wear a Hijab ("veil" or "cover")
- Did apply to men and women in terms of "protecting both their private lives from outsiders and to protect one's own honor, not in specific relation to one's sexual activity or desires" like Muhammad had followed
- The Hijab possessed a new meaning in the 1990s as the fear of western influence emerged; it was to shield women from western influence, and garnered as a symbol of oppression towards women
- The Hijab has been a topic of controversy- some women embrace it, some find it oppressive



CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION

- Islam encourages its followers to expand their knowledge, and the mosque is the center of learning
- Believe in free, universal education for capable boys and girls; believed in universal educational opportunities before Western Europeans; education involves spiritual, intellectual, social, and rational growth
- Source of early knowledge of mathematics, language, and science used by Western countries

TERRORISM

- Terrorists are motivated by vengeance, to cause widespread fear, obtain recognition, steal money or equipment, harass/weaken government security, influence government decisions, discourage foreign investments that may affect the country's economy, free prisoners, and more

MAIN GROUPS

- 1. ISIS- Iraq
- 2. Boko Haram- Nigeria
- 3. Al-Qaeda- Sudan, then relocated in 1996 to Afghanistan
- 4. Taliban- Afghanistan

DO THEY REALLY FOLLOW ISLAM?

- No- many Muslim groups have denounced these terrorist organizations as Islam, saying that they don't follow the core principles
- "There aren't violent religions, just violent people"
- Terrorist organizations use religion as a means of committing violent acts- claim they are doing the wishes of their God
- Historians argue that this is a false pretext
- Others argue that religion is a great factor- one example is some members' lack of fear for death- they welcome an afterlife of great rewards from their God

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