

# Islam

A Total Beginner's

# Guide

(PART ONE)



Molvi Abdul Aziz



# **ISLAM – A Total Beginner’s Guide**

## **“PART – I”**

A Reader for Those

**WHO NEWLY ENTER INTO THE FOLD OF ISLAM  
AND FOR TOTAL BEGINNERS!**

---

By: Maulvi Adul Aziz

Translation: Sameh Strauch

---

## **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

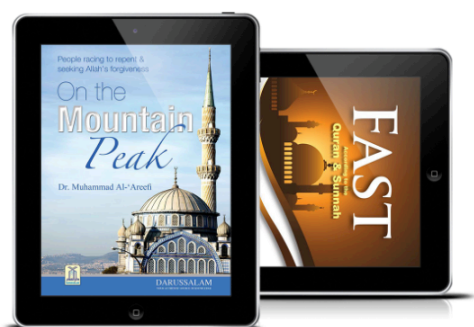
No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher.



Progress in your spiritual journey with authentic knowledge from Darussalam's extensive collection of Islamic books, eBooks and Apps.

## Visit Darussalam Publishers

### Darussalam EBooks

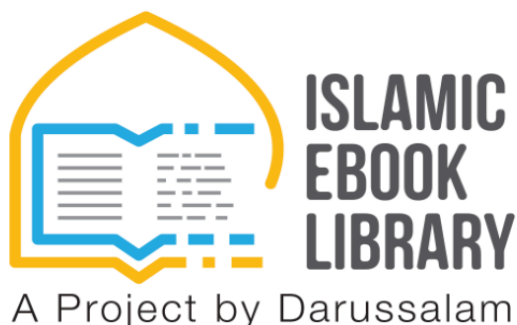


[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

### Darussalam Apps



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Subscribe to get unlimited access to 100s of Darussalam title in eBook format for easy reading anywhere and on any device.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Table of Contents

<b>PREFACE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SECTION 1: Introduction To Islam.....</b>	<b>10</b>
The Word Islam.....	10
The Meaning of Shar'iah.....	20
The Difference between Deen and Shar'iah.....	21
What is Required of Someone who Wishes To Embrace Islam? .....	22
<b>THE TERM REVERSION.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ISLAM IS ALLAH'S GREATEST GIFT.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>A FAITH INCREASING INCIDENT .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>THE POLYTHEISTS ARE SURELY UNCLEAR .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>The Legislation of CIRCUMCISION.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>TAHARAH OR PURIFICATION ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND BASIC ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ....</b>	<b>33</b>

A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT PERSONAL HYGIENE .....	36
A Word of Caution against CONTAMINATION WITH URINE.....	40
ISLAM EFFACES ALL THE PREVIOUS SINS .....	44
Imitating the Unbelievers: .....	47
Muslims in Relation to others.....	48
<b>SECTION 2: The Duties of ISLAM.....</b>	<b>52</b>
WHAT IS ISLAM? .....	52
The Testimony of Faith (Islam's First and Foremost Pillar)	52
The second essential part of The ShahAdah.....	56
Finality of Prophethood .....	58
Establishing the Obligatory Prayers (THE SECOND PILLAR OF ISLAM) .....	61
ZAKAAT THE PURIFYING DUES .....	67
Zakat ON THE PRODUCE OF THE EARTH.....	76

Those Entitled to Zakat .....	76
Can non-Muslims BE GIVEN ZAKAT .....	78
Other Important Considerations Concerning Zakat.....	79
Ruling Concerning those WHO DO NOT PAY ZAKAT .	80
The Worldly Punishment for Not Paying ZAKAT .....	81
THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOUSE - THE HAJJ .....	82
What is the KA'BAH?.....	85
Muslims DO NOT WORSHIP THE BLACK STONE .....	87
The Present BUILDING OF THE KA'BAH .....	90
On Whom is HAJJ OBLIGATORY? .....	92
Types of HAJJ .....	93
How is the HAJJ PERFORMED? .....	93
The Significance and BENEFITS OF HAJJ.....	96
Definition of FASTING .....	99
The Objectives SPIRIT OF FASTING.....	100

Those Who Have a Valid Reason to Postpone Fasting ...	102
THE PILLARS OF Fasting .....	104
Intention To Fast.....	105
The Sahur THE PRE-DAWN MEAL .....	106
Iftar .....	107
Days on which FASTING IS FORBIDDEN .....	108
Virtues of FASTING .....	108
There is Nothing LIKE FASTING .....	109
Ar-Rayyan - THE GATE FOR THOSE WHO FAST.....	110
The Health Benefits of FASTING.....	110
THE FRUITS of Fasting .....	112

# PREFACE



You must have heard about Islam and its adherents, Muslims, in the news. This book offers an insightful introduction to Islam and takes the reader through well-known authentic sources and takes a closer look at the Islamic Faith, the Noble Qur'an, the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah and his sayings. It explores the Five Pillars of Islam in depth and narrates the biography of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) briefly but distinctly. The book presents a brief yet comprehensive survey of the basic teachings of Islam with particular stress on the significance of Islam's central belief in the Oneness of Allah or Tawhid. The book offers an in-depth discussion on the Glorious Qur'an as the Revealed Book.

Undoubtedly there is an overwhelming demand for information about Islam, and this timely book attempts to offer a comprehensive, authentic understanding of this fastest growing religion: the Straight Path. The book provides succinct, accessible, authentic, sensitive and crystal clear information on the topics that range from the general to more specific issues – what is the status of women in Islam? Are women seen as second class citizens in Islam? Who is



superior – man or woman? What is Jihad? What does Islam say about abortion, mercy-killings or euthanasia, inter-religious marriages, suicide, man's treatment towards his wife, polygyny, divorce, dress, veil, the rights of parents, privacy in homes, clothing and ornaments, the wisdom of banning gold and silk for men, perfumes, unisex fashions, the alleged cruelty towards animals and foods – lawful and unlawful. Islam - A Beginner's Guide to Islam is a splendid introduction - carefully researched and comprehensive, yet highly readable. It corrects many popular and erroneous notions about Islam that prevail in non-Muslim communities.

For the newly-converted Muslim, there are many profound insights of great significance; for instance, the passages on women, their treatment and on Jihad, nearly always are completely misunderstood, rather misrepresented by the mass media. This study represents a traditional view of Islam as experienced by Muslims. We believe this work will prove an invaluable source for both new Muslims as well as the general public. Indeed this book will take you on a journey through various aspects of Islam, and Islam makes a man reborn!

Allah's Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported as having said:

*‘He who does not thank people does not thank Allah.’ [at-Tirmidhi]*

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**  
Darussalam Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

# SECTION 1: Introduction To Islam

The very first point to be considered in a discussion on the religion of Islam is its name itself.

## The Word Islam

The term Islam is derived from the Arabic root “S-L-M” and Salamah is the verbal noun, which means to be in a state of being safe and sound or to remain unharmed or unimpaired. The word Salam comes from the same root, which means peace.

It is important to realize that among the different religions of the world, Islam enjoys the uniqueness of bearing a significant name that points to its very essence. Thus, Islam means entering into Salm; and Salm and Silm both signify peace. In other words, the root meaning of the word Islam is to enter into peace with Allah and men. Peace with Allah implies complete surrender to His Will; and peace with men is not only to refrain from evil or unjust injury to another, but also to do good to them, and both these ideas find expression in the Glorious Qur’an itself as the true essence of the religion of Islam:

*“Nay, indeed whosoever submits [aslama] himself to Allah, striving all the while in excelling doing the good, his reward*

*is with his Lord. No fear shall be on them, neither shall they grieve.” [al-Baqarah, 2:112]*

It is essential to note that it is sincerity on which depends the weight and worth of a deed. Allah looks at your hearts and your intentions.

In this way, a Muslim plays an important role in society. He is at peace with his Creator. He is at peace with his fellow human beings and all of Allah’s Creations. Islam is submission. Islam is surrender. It is an act of resignation and total surrender to Allah’s Will and following His Commands.

Some other words from the same root:

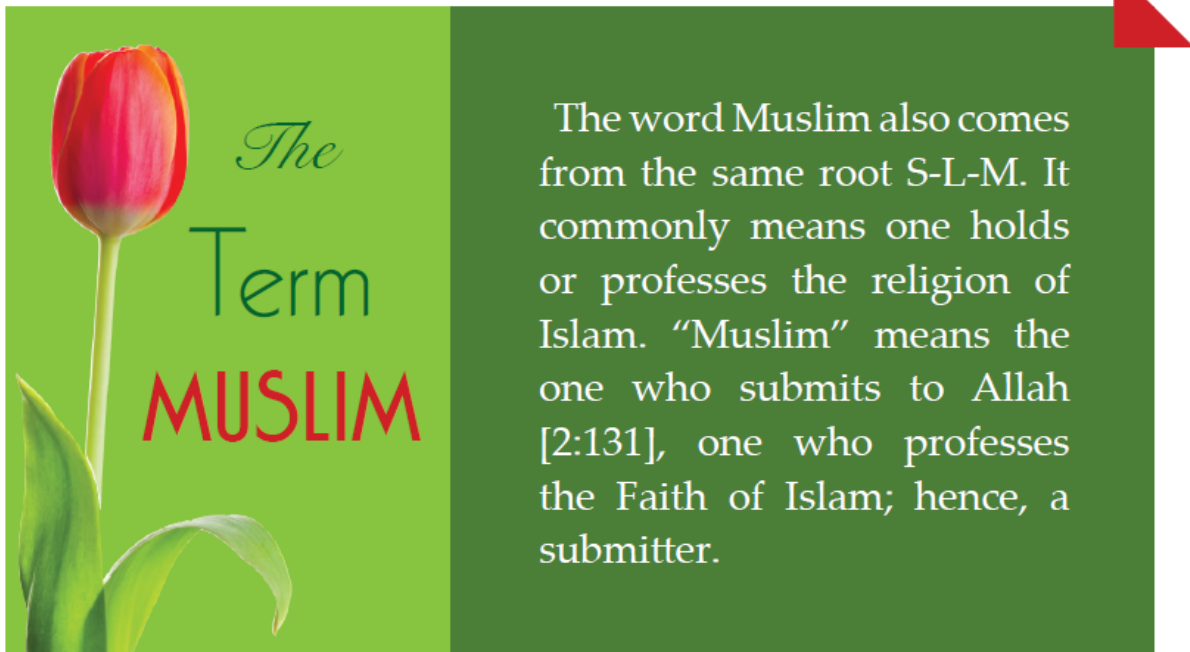
The word Salam has two meanings – to be protected from all afflictions and defects, and to remain in peace and without hostility. *Assalamu Alaykum* is the form of greeting for Muslims. It means “peace be upon you.” The response to this is *Wa alaykumussalam*, which means, “and peace be on you also.” This mutual prayer for peace promotes feelings of love amongst fellow believers. One is recommended by the Gracious Qur’an to respond to the Salam, “*With a greeting still more courteous or [at least] of equal courtesy.*” [*an-Nisa 4:86*]. This means one should reply with, *Wa alaykumussalam wa Rahmatullah* – and peace be upon you and Allah’s Mercy, or add to it *wa barakatuh* – and His

blessings. As-Salam is one of the beautiful Names of Allah. It means Allah is the One Who gives peace and security.

Silm, as we have said above, means peace. It is also used in the sense of obedience to Allah and His Messenger (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him). In this way, it is a synonym of Islam, as in Surah al-Baqarah of the Qur'an [2: 208]. Salam also means peace and is used as the opposite of war and the request for surrender [an-Nisa 4:90-91; al-Anfal 8:61].

Salam means one who is free from defect, unimpaired, sound or secure. It is used twice in the Qur'an: as a quality of the heart that will save one from the torment of the Hell-Fire. [Surah ash-Shu'ara 26:89], and as an attribute of the Prophet Ibrahim (Peace be Upon Him) [Surah as-Saffat 37:84].

Islam is, thus, in its very beginning, the religion of peace, and its two fundamental doctrines, the Oneness of Allah and the oneness or brotherhood of the human race, afford positive evidence of its being true to its name. Hence, Islam is an act of total willing surrender to Allah's Will. It is a total surrender to follow His Commands. The term Islam occurs eight times in the Noble Qur'an.



The religion sent down by Allah and brought into the world by His Prophets has been called Islam for the simple reason that, in it, the servant surrenders completely to the power and control of his Lord and obeys Him whole-heartedly. The Qur'an speaks of Adam as the first man and the first Prophet. Prophethood began with Adam and came to a close with Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Adam was the first Muslim. Thus, Islam is not a new religion. It is as old as the first man, the Prophet Adam. The religion of all the Prophets and Messengers was Islam. This is the vital point which should be kept in mind in trying to understand Islam.

Discussing the term Islam, Hasan Gai Eaton writes, "The term 'Muslim' [with a capital letter] is properly applied only to those who follow the Message of the Qur'an, but when it takes the lower case, it has a far more universal meaning. In

the first place, everyone and everything is Muslim, in the sense that all, knowingly or unknowingly are obliged to the Divine Will and cannot escape from it. The rock that falls by the force of gravity is Muslim, so are the birds and beasts of the field. So, too, is the humankind as a whole. All submit to the will of their Creator.” [Remembering God, p. 5]

The Noble Qur’an has uncovered a great secret concerning our universe,

*“The seven heavens, the earth, and whatever is within them, celebrate His glory. And there is not a thing but celebrates His glory in praises. But you do not understand their glorification.” [Isra 17:44]*

It is a powerful and majestic scene. Here, we see every stone, large and small, seed and leaf, every flower and fruit, every little shoot and every tree, every insect and reptile, every animal and human being, every creature that walks the earth, swims in the water or floats in the air; in short, all creatures in the whole universe are glorifying Allah and turning to Him in submission. We are filled with awe as we sense that everything that comes within our vision or stays behind it comes alive. Whenever we stretch our hands out to touch something, and whatever we put our feet, we feel that it is so to say alive, glorifying Allah. Indeed every single thing extols His glory and praise, in its own way and language.

Huge waves breaking on the shore sing His Praises. But, we human beings cannot understand.

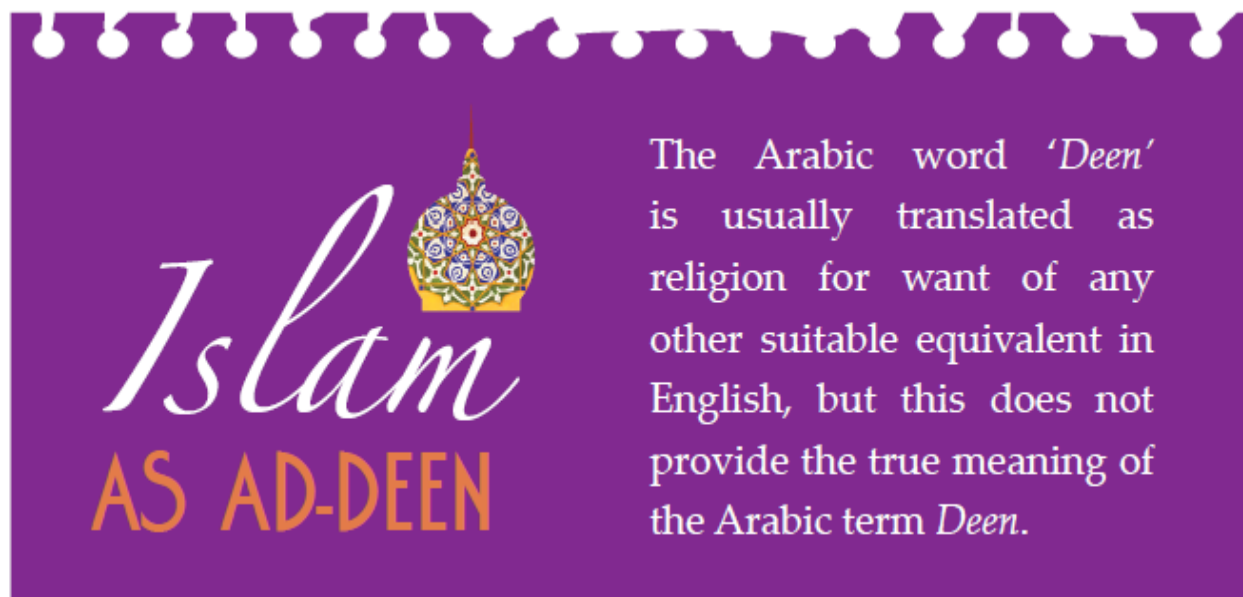
Human beings are limited by their own constitution, which has a clay origin. This debars them from understanding the praises of other creatures. But had they listened with their hearts, directing them to appreciate the subtle laws that operate in the universe and make everything, large or small, turn to the Creator of all, they would have appreciated something of that praise.

Birds, animals and insects have their own means of communication, which are in fact their languages. This is clearly observed in many species of bird, animal and insect. Biologists who are interested in certain species have been trying hard to understand a little of their languages, but they can only rely on guesswork, which does not approach any degree of certainty. What Allah granted to Prophet Sulayman [upon him be peace] was something special, a miracle that goes beyond the laws of nature familiar to man. The knowledge he acquired was not through any attempt he had made to understand these species; it was a gift from Allah. The Surah an-Naml [the Ants, the 27th Surah of the Qur'an] gives us an account of some of the favours Allah granted to Prophet Sulayman (Peace be upon him), particularly the knowledge of the speech of birds and other creatures. The chapter an-Nahl of the Glorious Qur'an speaks of Sulayman's hearing an ant supervisor speak [27:18-19].



Moreover, there is the Hadith of al-Bukhari, which speaks in detail of the crying of the date-palm trunk, upon which the Prophet (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him) used to lean while ‘delivering’ the Friday sermons. Al-Bukhari has also reported Ibn Mas’ud as having said, “We used to hear the food glorifying its Lord while it was being eaten.” Several similar incidents with inanimate objects are recorded in different collections of Hadith.

Since everything in this universe behaves in accordance with its ingrained laws, they automatically obey the command of Allah. The whole universe, therefore, is muslim, surrendering to the Will of Allah. Man is the only exception in this universal law. This is because he is given the free choice of obeying or not obeying the Commands of Allah.



**The Arabic term ‘Deen’**

The Arabic word 'Deen' is derived from D-Y-N, which means to be recompensed, judged, obeyed, worship, custom, habit, law, constitution, etc. When used in combination with Yawm [Day] as in Yawm ad-Deen, it denotes the Day of Judgement or the Day of Reckoning. This refers to Akhirah [the Hereafter] when people will be brought before their Lord and He will dispense justice according to their deeds in this world. This Day is graphically portrayed in several Surahs of the Glorious Qur'an.

### *In Islam 'Deen' is a Keyword*

By far the most common use of the word Deen is for a system of beliefs or code of life or religion. The term religion, a very common word for the Arabic word 'Deen,' has a very narrow and limited meaning. It usually refers to rites and rituals. While, 'Deen' is a comprehensive term that embraces all aspects of life. Thus, in Islam, Deen is a keyword and a technical term to denote the whole array of meanings pertaining to the system of beliefs as well as to a complete code of life. Hence, it is not possible to translate this into a single word in other languages.

# Deen

## AS A WAY OF LIFE



In Islamic terminology, ad-Deen is that way of life in which Allah is recognized as the Sovereign, the Master and the Lord to whom human beings should surrender, submit and humble themselves. He should be accepted as the Lord of Reward and Punishment in the Hereafter.

Islam is the name of this Deen. This is the only Deen that is acceptable to Allah as the Verse from Surah Aal-Imran clearly proclaims. *“If anyone desires a Deen other than Islam, never will it be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.” [3:85]*

Thus, three obligations stand out from the various meanings of ad-Deen:

1. To acknowledge Allah as the Lord, the Master and the Ruler;
2. To obey and serve only Him;

3. To be accountable to Him, to fear only His punishment and to seek His Pleasure.

It is important to realize that within the meaning of Deen, the obedience to Allah's Messengers is implied, for Allah's Commandments are conveyed to human beings through His Books revealed to His Messengers.

Thus, when the repentance of Adam and his wife Hawwa was accepted and they were sent down on earth. Allah Commanded them, *“Get you down all from here, and if Guidance does indeed come to you from Me, then whoever follows My Guidance, will have nothing to fear and will not grieve.” [al-Baqarah 2:38]*

But Allah has given human beings the freedom of choice either to accept His Guidance or to reject it. This is unlike Allah's other creations, who instinctively obey Him. No one can be forced to accept Islam against his wishes. Human beings have the freedom to choose their own way of life.

### *There is no Compulsion in Religion*

Allah says in Glorious Qur'an, *“There is no compulsion in Deen.” [al-Baqarah 2:256]* This means no one is to be forced to become a Muslim. Islam is plain and clear, and its proofs and evidences are also plain and clear. Therefore, there is no need to force anyone to embrace Islam.