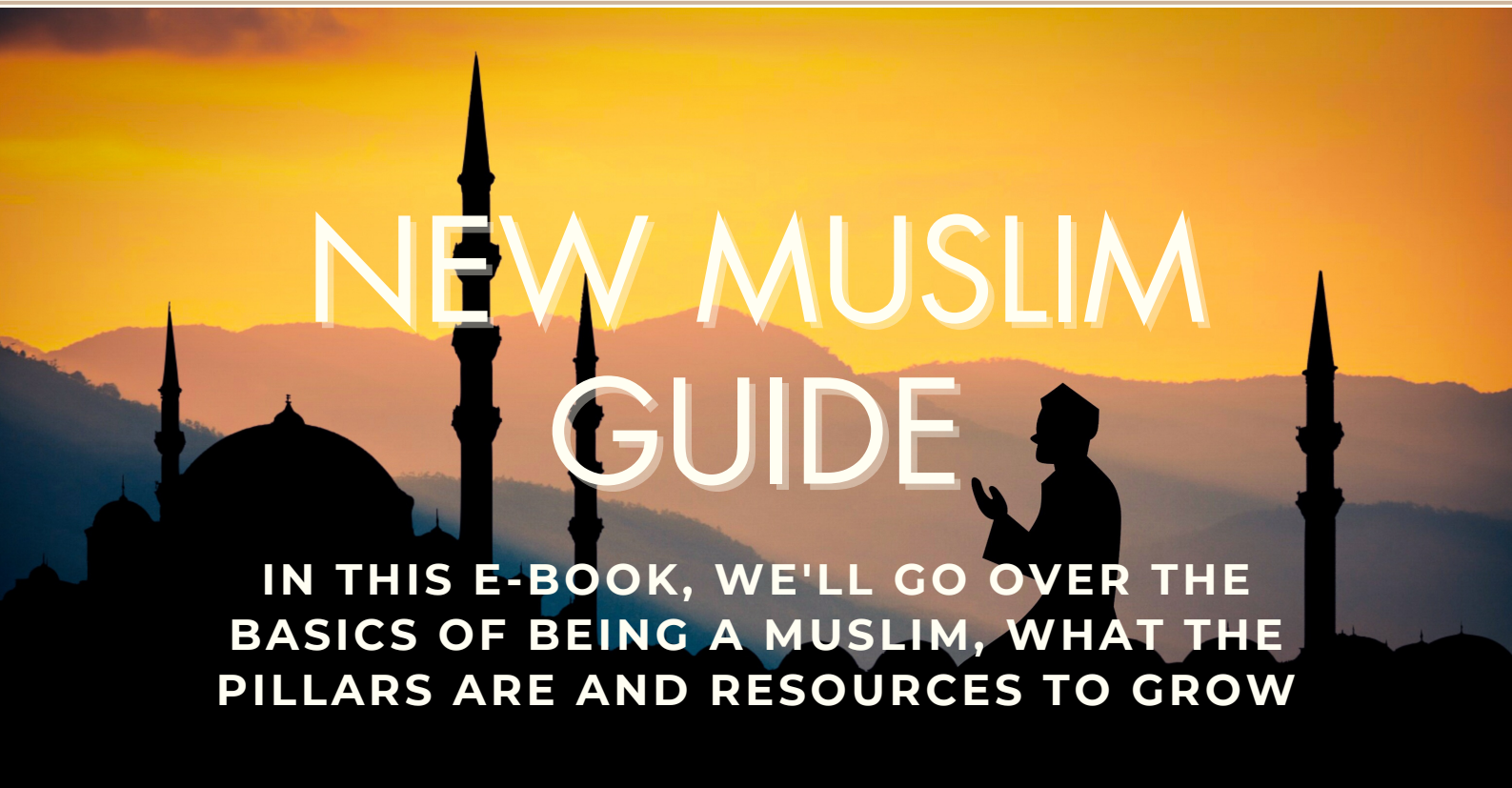




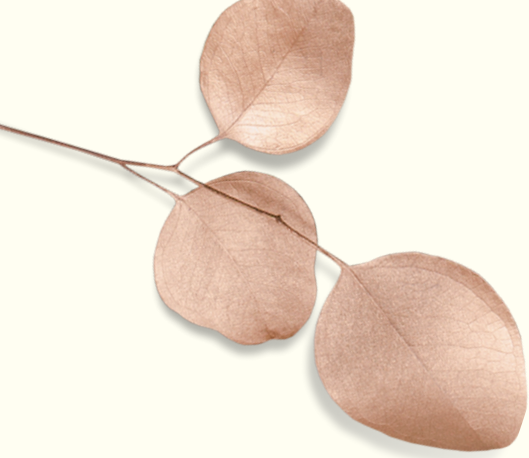
HOWTOMUSLIM.ORG



# NEW MUSLIM GUIDE

**IN THIS E-BOOK, WE'LL GO OVER THE  
BASICS OF BEING A MUSLIM, WHAT THE  
PILLARS ARE AND RESOURCES TO GROW**

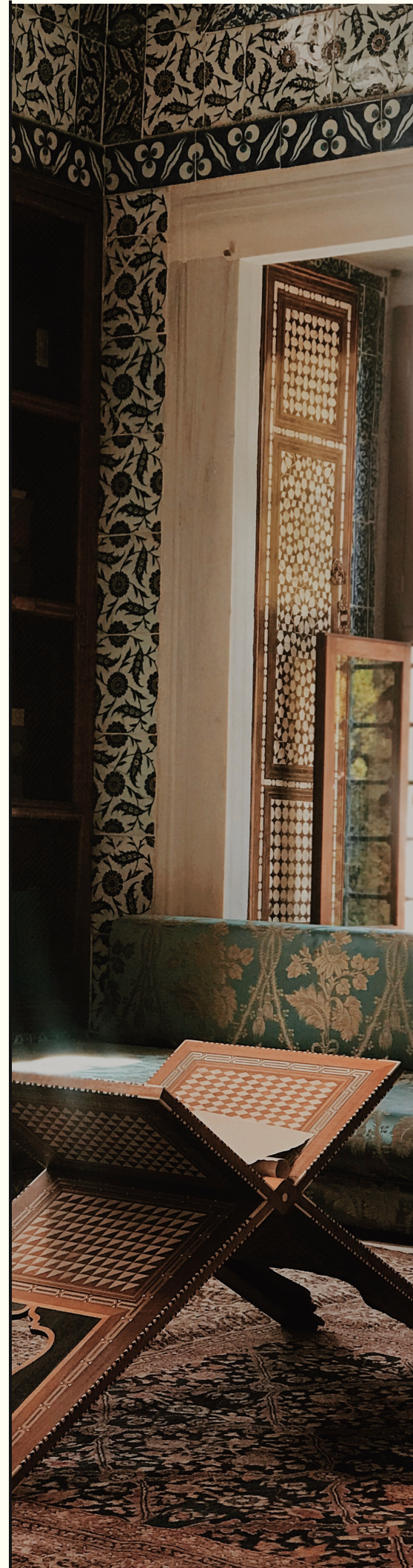




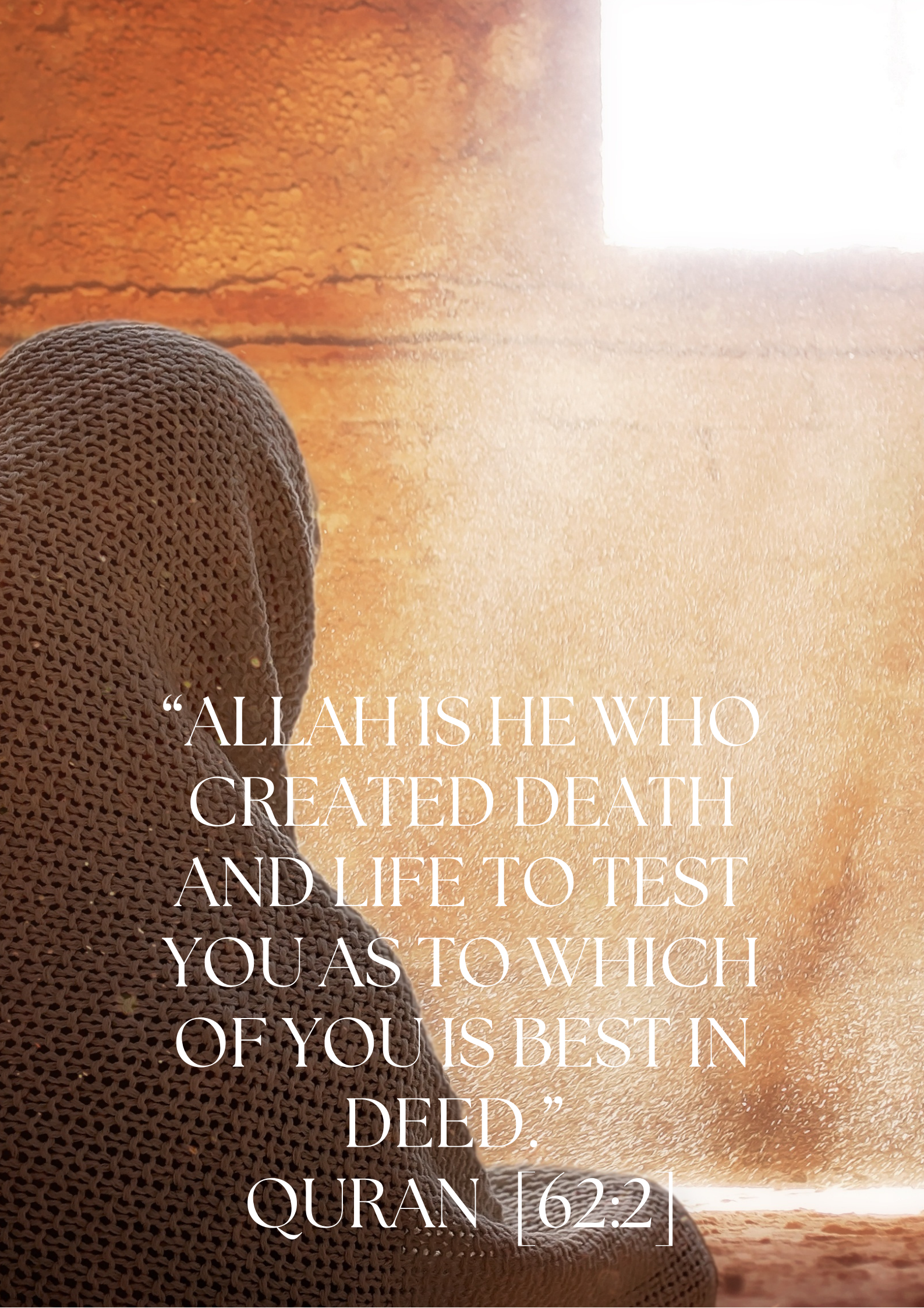
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IN THIS E-BOOK, WE'LL COVER THE FOUNDATIONS OF ISLAM AS WELL AS HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR FAITH AS A NEW MUSLIM





A person wearing a brown knitted headscarf is seen from the back, looking out a window. The window shows a bright, sunlit landscape with a clear sky and a horizon line. The text is overlaid on the image in white, serif font.

“ALLAH IS HE WHO  
CREATED DEATH  
AND LIFE TO TEST  
YOU AS TO WHICH  
OF YOU IS BEST IN  
DEED.”  
QURAN [62:2]



# 01

## INTRODUCTION

The book is meant to serve as a companion for those who have embraced Islam. Islam is a way of life that encompasses all aspects of being. The book is a roadmap to personal transformation, empowering new Muslims to forge a deep connection with Allah. It explores the fundamental pillars of Islam and provides practical insights into daily practices. The journey mirrors the profound transformation of the soul, from an introduction to the core beliefs of Islam to the enrichment of the heart through acts of worship. It invites readers to embark on a journey that goes beyond learning about Islam, towards becoming a better Muslim, cultivating a flourishing faith, and finding solace and purpose in the embrace of the Divine.

LET'S DO IT!





# YOUR NOTES:

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## WHAT IS ISLAM?

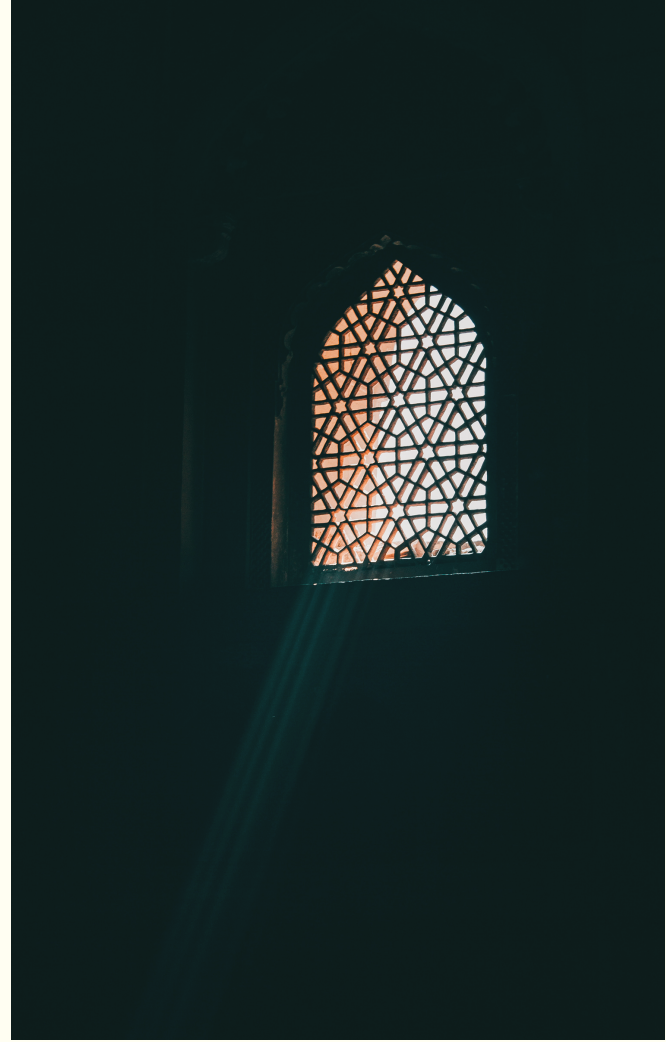
02

Islam is a religion of faith. It is said that one who has a belief in Tawheed (Oneness of Allah) is a believer. Many Quranic verses and Hadeeth suggest to us that patience (sabr) and faith (aqeedah) in the decree that Allah has penned down for each one of us are two of the fundamental characteristics of a believer.

*And seek help through  
patience and prayer  
Quran 2:45*

# BASIC BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Islam, as a monotheistic Abrahamic religion, is centered around a set of core Pillars and practices that guide the lives of its followers. These beliefs and practices provide a framework for connecting with Allah (God) and living a life of righteousness. Additionally, the "Six Pillars of Iman" outline the fundamental beliefs that Muslims hold in their hearts. Let's explore both aspects.



## PILLARS OF ISLAM

There are 5 pillars of Islam, belief and practicing of each is required to be considered a Muslim.

Together they bring together the essence of Islam as a religion of peace, submitting to God.

Each Pillar does also account for those unable to fulfill them due to bad health or having the lack of financial means to fulfill them.



# PILLARS OF ISLAM

01

**Shahada (Declaration of Faith)**: The Shahada is the foundational statement of belief in Islam. It declares the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad. It is recited as: "La ilaha illallah, Muhammadur rasulullah" (There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah)

02

**Salah (Prayer)**: Muslims perform five daily prayers facing the Kaaba in Mecca. These prayers are a direct means of communication with Allah and a way to maintain mindfulness and connection throughout the day.

03

**Zakat (Charity)**: Zakat is the practice of giving a portion (usually 2.5%) of one's wealth to those in need on a yearly basis. It's a means of purifying one's wealth and promoting social equity by helping those in need while not burdening those who are eligible to pay it.

04

**Sawm (Fasting during Ramadan)**: Muslims fast from dawn until sunset during the holy month of Ramadan. This practice fosters self-discipline, empathy for the less fortunate, and spiritual growth.

05

**Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)**: Muslims who are physically and financially able are required to undertake the pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca at least once in their lifetime. This journey is a demonstration of unity and equality among Muslims.



# PILLARS OF IMAAN (BELIEF)

01

**Belief in Allah:** Muslims believe in the absolute oneness of Allah, the Creator of the universe. Allah is all-powerful, all-knowing, and merciful.

02

**Belief in Angels:** Muslims believe in the existence of angels who carry out Allah's commands and play various roles in the universe, including recording human actions.

03

**Belief in Divine Books:** Muslims believe in the books revealed by Allah to various prophets, including the Quran revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Other significant scriptures include the Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and Scrolls of Abraham.

04

**Belief in Prophets:** Muslims believe in the prophethood of individuals chosen by Allah to deliver His messages to humanity. Key prophets include Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad.

05

**Belief in the Day of Judgment:** Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment, when all individuals will be resurrected and held accountable for their deeds. Good deeds will be rewarded, and wrongdoers will face consequences.

06

**Belief in Qadar (Divine Decree):** Muslims believe in Allah's divine decree and predestination. This includes belief in both the good and the challenges that come into one's life, and the understanding that everything occurs by Allah's will.





# TAKING THE FIRST STEPS

Becoming a Muslim is a profound and personal journey, often marked by a declaration of faith known as the Shahada. The Shahada is the most essential aspect of conversion to Islam, as it signifies one's acceptance of the oneness of Allah and the prophethood of Muhammad.

After embracing Islam through the Shahada, new Muslims embark on a journey of learning and practice. Here are some initial steps:

- Learn about the fundamental beliefs and practices of Islam, including the **five pillars of faith** and daily prayers
- Learn how to **perform daily prayers** (Salah) using instructional materials and apps (such as using the step by step salah - namaz app of the app stores)
- **Connect** with the local Muslim **community** to feel a sense of belonging and learn from experienced Muslims
- Seek **support** and **guidance** from fellow Muslims and embrace the process of growth and learning as a new Muslim.







# FINDING A MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Finding a Muslim community is crucial for support and growth in one's faith. Here's how to go about it:

1. **Visit Local Mosques:** Local mosques are often the heart of the Muslim community. Attend Friday prayers or other events to connect with local Muslims.
2. **Online Resources:** In the digital age, there are many online communities and forums where you can connect with Muslims, seek advice, and ask questions. One such group is our discord server: <https://discord.gg/qUMRxYKkxj> where you can connect with other Muslims willing to help. In addition there are countless others on Facebook, Whatsapp and Discord.

3. **Islamic Classes and Workshops:** Many mosques and Islamic centers offer classes and workshops for new Muslims. These can be excellent opportunities for learning and community building.

4. **Social Events:** Attend social events organized by the local Muslim community. These events often provide a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for newcomers.

5. **Interact with Diverse Groups:** Islam is a diverse religion with followers from various cultural backgrounds. Interact with Muslims from different backgrounds to gain a broader perspective on the faith.

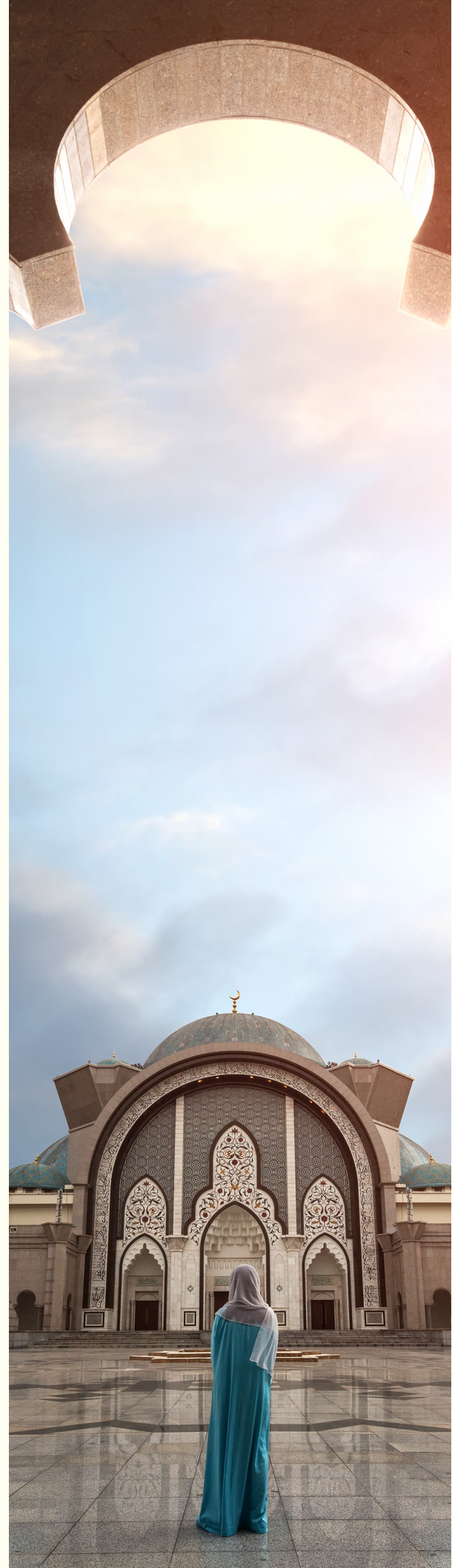
Building connections within the Muslim community can be a source of spiritual support, friendship, and personal growth as you continue your journey as a Muslim.



# LIVING AS A MUSLIM

Living as a Muslim involves adopting a way of life that is guided by Islamic principles and values. This encompasses every aspect of life, from daily routines to personal conduct and interactions with others. Here are key elements of living as a Muslim:

1. **Taqwa (Consciousness of Allah):** Central to living as a Muslim is the cultivation of taqwa, which means being conscious of Allah in all actions and decisions. It involves constant self-awareness and striving to act in accordance with Islamic ethics.
2. **Islamic Ethics:** Muslims are expected to adhere to a set of ethical principles that include honesty, integrity, kindness, humility, and compassion. Treating others with respect and justice is integral to Islamic ethics.
3. **Family Life:** Family holds a central place in Islam. Muslims are encouraged to maintain strong family bonds, provide for their families, and raise children with proper Islamic values and education.
4. **Community Engagement:** Active participation in the Muslim community is encouraged. This includes attending Friday prayers at the mosque, engaging in community service, and supporting fellow community members.
5. **Dress Code:** Modesty in dress and conduct for both men and women is an important aspect of living as a Muslim. Many Muslim women choose to wear the hijab as a symbol of modesty and faith.
6. **Dietary Practices:** Muslims adhere to dietary laws, consuming only foods that are halal (permissible) and avoiding haram (forbidden) items, such as pork and alcohol. This adherence extends to preparation and handling of food as well.





# PRAYER

Salah is a fundamental practice for Muslims, involving ritual prayers at specific times throughout the day. Muslims are required to perform five daily prayers facing the Kaaba in Mecca. Before each prayer, Muslims perform wudu, a ritual purification that involves washing hands, face, arms, and feet. Each prayer consists of a series of postures, including standing, bowing, prostration, and sitting.



# FASTING

Fasting during Ramadan is a pillar of Islam, involving abstaining from food, drink, and physical needs from dawn until sunset. It is a time for spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and increased devotion. Iftar and Suhoor have special significance, and Muslims are required to give charity at the end of Ramadan. This helps those in need to enjoy Eid al-Fitr festivities.





# ZAKAT

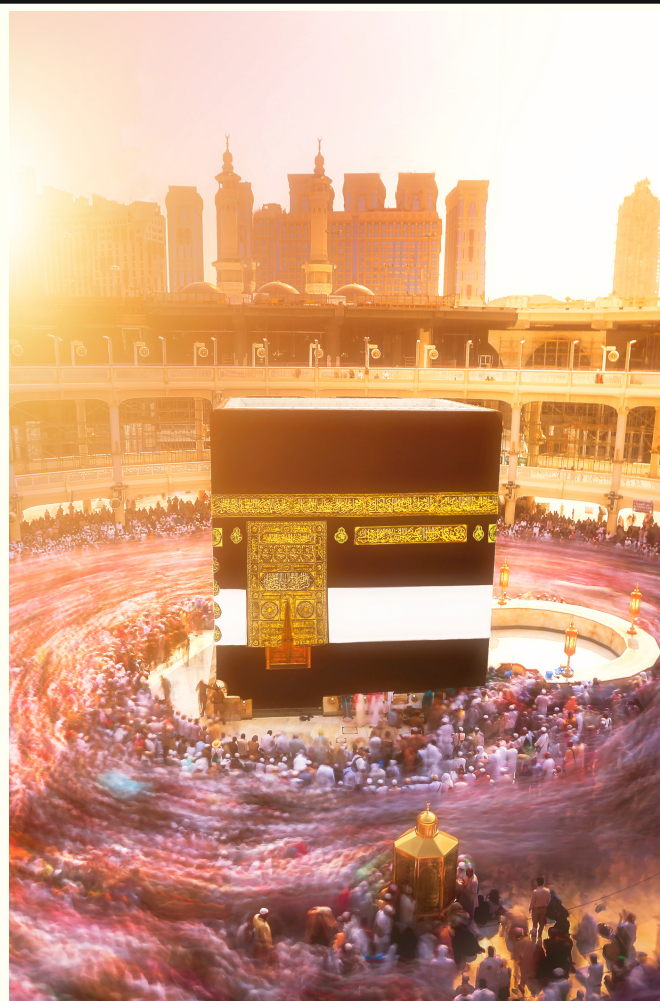
Zakat is a mandatory act of charity in Islam where a portion of one's wealth is given to those in need (usually 2.5%).

It involves wealth purification and social justice. Eligible recipients include the poor, needy, orphans, and travellers. Zakat is calculated annually based on accumulated wealth.

Zakat has been a successful tool for the reduction or even complete eradication of poverty as during the time (13-22H) of second Caliph of Islam Umar Bin Khattab (R.A) and during time (99-101H) of Omar bin Abdul Aziz, the condition of people during that time was so prosperous that there was no eligible recipient of Zakat

# HAJJ

Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is obligatory for physically and financially able Muslims, involves specific rituals such as stoning of teh devil and performing tawaf around the Kaaba, and symbolises unity among Muslims. Hajj is a spiritual experience that serves as a reminder of the Day of Judgment. It is one of the largest gatherings on earth with Muslims from nearly every country on earth attending.







# HALAL & HARAM

Halal refers to permissible or lawful actions in Islam, including food, behavior, and business transactions.

- **Halal food** adheres to specific dietary guidelines outlined in the Quran and Hadith, and includes consumption of meat from animals that have been slaughtered in the name of Allah and avoiding pork and its by-products and alcohol/intoxicating substances.
- **Ethical behavior** in halal living includes upholding honesty and integrity, treating others with respect and fairness, avoiding slander, backbiting, and gossip, and observing modesty in dress and conduct.
- The **financial transactions** adhere to principles that promote fairness and avoid exploitation, such as prohibition of usury and fair and transparent business practices.
- **Halal living** also includes maintaining modesty in interactions with the opposite gender, avoiding premarital or extramarital sexual relationships, and abstaining from associating with partners with Allah (shirk).

Haram denotes explicitly prohibited actions, behaviors, or substances that are sinful or detrimental to one's spiritual well-being, and include lying, cheating, immorality, and idolatry and polytheism. Injustice and harm to others are also considered haram. It's important to seek guidance from religious scholars and jurists when in doubt.

Living a halal life is a fundamental aspect of practicing Islam, as it reflects a commitment to following the ethical and spiritual teachings of the religion as these guidelines aim to protect sound religious practice, life, sanity, the family, and personal and communal wealth. It is a continuous effort to align one's actions and choices with the principles of righteousness and obedience to Allah.



# GROWING AS A MUSLIM

Growing as a Muslim is a lifelong journey of spiritual and personal development with various aspects to it such as:

- Learning more about Islam
- Building relationships with other Muslims
- Serving the community
- Strengthening faith

## **Learning More About Islam:**

Learning is a cornerstone of growth as a Muslim. It involves deepening your understanding of Islamic beliefs, practices, and history. Here's how you can expand your knowledge:

- **Study the Quran:** The Quran is the central religious text of Islam. Regularly reading and studying its verses, along with translations and interpretations, can provide profound insights.
- **Story of the Prophet:** Reading the Seerahs of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) showcases the perfect example for mankind and the kind of character we should exemplify
- **Islamic Books and Courses:** There are many books, online courses, and educational programs available to help you deepen your knowledge of Islam. Seek out reputable sources and scholars for guidance.
- **Local Mosque or Islamic Center:** Attend lectures, seminars, and classes offered by your local mosque or Islamic center. These institutions often provide valuable educational resources.







# STRENGTHENING FAITH

Strengthening one's faith is an ongoing process of deepening your connection with Allah and living in accordance with Islamic principles. Here are some ways to do that:

- **Prayer and Worship:** Regularly engage in prayer (Salah) and other acts of worship. Develop a consistent routine that helps you maintain mindfulness and devotion.
- **Dua (Supplication):** Make dua (supplication) to Allah. Pour your heart out in prayer, seeking guidance, forgiveness, and blessings for yourself and others.
- **Self-Reflection:** Take time for self-reflection and self-improvement. Identify areas where you can grow spiritually and morally, and work towards positive change.
- **Seek Knowledge:** Continue seeking knowledge about Islam and its teachings. The more you learn, the stronger your faith and understanding will become.
- **Surround Yourself with Positivity:** Associate with people who uplift your faith and character. Avoid negative influences that can erode your values.
- **Patience and Perseverance:** Understand that faith may have its ups and downs. Remain patient during times of difficulty, and remember that struggles can strengthen your faith.

Growing as a Muslim is a lifelong journey filled with opportunities for spiritual and personal development. It involves deepening your understanding of Islam, building meaningful relationships within the Muslim community, serving others with compassion, and continually strengthening your faith through prayer, reflection, and good deeds.



“WHOEVER COMES TO  
ME WALKING, I WILL  
COME TO HIM RUNNING.  
WHOEVER MEETS ME  
WITH ENOUGH SINS TO  
FILL THE EARTH, NOT  
ASSOCIATING ANY  
PARTNERS WITH ME, I  
WILL MEET HIM WITH AS  
MUCH FORGIVENESS.”  
SAHIH MUSLIM 2687

The next pages serve to be as tools and templates for you to use on your journey to bettering yourself and growing as a Muslim.



# CHECKLIST

Month: ..... Week: .....

Tasks	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	✓						



# DAILY PLANNER

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Today's goals

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Recitation Tracker

Surah

\_\_\_\_\_

Verses

\_\_\_\_\_

## Future Ideas



- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Salah Tracker

## Current reads

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

How can I be more like the Prophet (pbuh) today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# FURTHER RESOURCES

## HOWTOMUSLIM.ORG

From our [HowTo](#) Series to our Resources section and our section on Prophet Muhammed, our website serves as the ultimate hub for all Muslims

## QURAN.COM

Quran.com offers a beautiful UI with a variety of reciters and translations of the Quran.

## DHIKR & DUA APP

Dhikr & dua app showcases an impressive catalogue of dhikrs for all situations as well as for specific emotions felt, equipping a muslim with one of the most important means of performing a simple yet rewarding form of worship.

## MUSLIM PRO

An all in one app with local prayer times, Qibla direction and many more.

## LAUNCHGOOD

A fundraising website to donate to all sorts of Muslim run campaigns such as helping orphans or building a mosque.

## MUSLIM CENTRAL

Muslim Central being present on multiple platforms such as YouTube and other podcast apps makes it an easy to access resource for Muslim content and lectures.

## PRODUCTIVE MUSLIM

A fantastic company offering a variety of tools to help you become a productive Muslim.

## THE SEALED NECTAR

One of the best books on the Seerah of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), a must read for all.



# THANK YOU FOR READING!



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