



This is a small step towards facilitating a true understanding of Islam, which is often misinterpreted by a certain category of books, videos & news which represents a distorted view of Islam.

MYNEIGHBOURHOOD newsletter aims to clear misconceptions and promote peace & welfare, starting from our beautiful neighbourhood.

I pray to God to lead our efforts to Goodwill and Harmony.

FACTS ABOUT ISLAM

What are the 5 pillars of Islam?

The 5 pillars of Islam are:

1. Testimony of Faith (Kalima)
2. Prayer (Salat)
3. Fasting (Sawm)
4. Almsgiving (Zakat)
5. Pilgrimage (Hajj)

What is the 'Testimony of Faith' in Islam?

The 'Testimony of Faith' is simply the declaration, *"I bear witness that there is no deity but God (One True God), and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger."*

As mentioned previously, all of Islam is based on faith in the Unity of God. When one declares this statement, one testifies to the Unity of God, and to the message of the Prophethood. When one bears witness that Muhammad is His messenger, one is confirming that all of the prophets before him were also His messengers - God is One and His message is one (Worship of The One True God). A person becomes a Muslim when he or she declares this statement with purity of heart and conviction of faith.

Great thoughts and a pure heart, that is what we should ask from God. - Goethe



Did you know?
A caterpillar protects itself from its enemies by the false face of a dreadful snake in its tail!

Truth: Islam acknowledged women's equality with men in a great many respects.

1. The Spiritual Aspect: The Quran provides clear-cut evidence that woman is completely equated with man in the sight of God in terms of her rights and responsibilities.

2. The Social Aspect: Criticizing the attitudes of such parents who reject their female children, the Qur'an states: *"When news is brought to one of them, of (the birth of) a female (child), his face darkens and he is filled with inward grief! With shame does he hide himself from his people because of the bad news he has had! Shall he retain her on (sufferance) and contempt, or bury her in the dust? Ah! What an evil (choice) they decide on!"* (Qur'an 16: 58-59).

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"Whoever works righteousnes, man or woman, and has faith, verily to such will We give a new life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to their actions."

3. Consent & Status in Marriage: According to the Quran, women cannot be forced to marry anyone without their consent. *"O You who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will, and you should not treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the Mahr (bridal-money given by the husband to his wife at time of marriage) you have given them, unless they commit open illegal sexual intercourse. And live with them honorably. If you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing and God brings through it a great deal of good."* (Quran 4:19) Over and above her basic rights as a wife comes the right which is emphasized by the Qur'an; love and companionship. *"And among His signs is this: That He created mates for you from yourselves that you may find rest, peace of mind in them, and He ordained between you love and mercy. Lo, herein indeed are signs for people who reflect."* [Noble Quran 30:21] The Qur'an further stresses: *"...But consort with them in kindness, for if you hate them it may happen that you hate a thing wherein God has placed much good."* (Qur'an 4: 19). Prophet Muhammad, a role model to muslims, taught: *"The most perfect believers are the best in conduct and best of you are those who are best to their wives."*

4. Right to Education: The right of females to seek knowledge is not different from that of males. The Qur'an thus states: *"And they (women) have rights similar to those (of men) over them, and men are a degree above them."* (Qur'an 2:228). Such degree is Quiwama (maintenance and protection). This refers to that natural difference between the sexes which entitles the weaker sex to protection. It implies no superiority or advantage before the law. Yet, man's role of leadership in relation to his family does not mean the husband's dictatorship over his wife. Islam emphasizes the importance of taking counsel and mutual agreement in family decisions. The Qur'an gives us an example:

"...If they (husband wife) desire to wean the child by mutual consent and (after) consultation, there is no blame on them..." (Qur'an 2: 233). Prophet Muhammad taught: *"Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim, man or woman"*.

5. The Economic Aspect: Islam restored to woman the right of inheritance, after she herself was an object of inheritance in some cultures. Her share is completely hers and no one can make any claim on it, including her father and her husband. The evidence for it is found in Quran which states: *"Unto men (of the family) belongs a share of that which parents and near kindred leave, and unto women a share of that which parents and near kindred leave, whether it be a little or much - a determinate share."* (Qur'an 4:7).

CONSERVE WATER Clean water is one of our most precious and diminishing resources and we don't want to waste it. Don't run the tap at full pressure; always have medium flow. Another way is to catch water in a bucket for use; Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Don't worry if the savings are minimal because every drop counts!



You can make a difference.