



Chapter 6 Islam



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- ▶ Origin: Islam originated in the Middle East, specifically in Saudi Arabia, the homeland of the Arab people.
- ▶ Interfaith Connection: Islam is closely linked to Judaism and Christianity. Scholars believe all three "Abrahamic religions" worship the same God.
- ▶ Shared Foundations: Islam shares many core beliefs and recognizes the prophets and scriptures of both Judaism and Christianity.
- ▶ Historical Impact: Islam has played a pivotal role in world history, leading a global civilization that contributed significantly to science, art, and philosophy.
- ▶ In Thailand: Islam had a major influence during the Ayutthaya period, and Islamic culture remains an integral part of Thai society today.



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/19949>

6.1 The Definition and Meaning of "Islam"

- ▶ Significance of the Name: Understanding the name "Islam" is crucial because it differs from other religions; it is not named after a person but represents a core principle.
- ▶ Terminology Awareness: There is often confusion between the terms Islam, Muslim, and Mohammedanism.
- ▶ Note: Using incorrect terms like "Mohammedanism" is considered disrespectful to believers, as it implies the worship of Muhammad rather than God.



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/21498>

6.1.1 Etymology: Peace and Submission

- ▶ Linguistic Root: Derived from the Arabic root S-L-M (Salama), meaning Peace, Purity, Submission, and Obedience.
- ▶ The Concept of "Deen": Islam is defined as a "Deen" (a complete way of life), comprising:
 - ▶ 1 Faith (Iman): Internal belief.
 - ▶ 2 Practice: Adherence to Divine law.
 - ▶ 3 Ethics: Moral conduct.
- ▶ The Essence: To be a follower of Islam is to achieve peace through total submission to the will of Allah (God).

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หมายถึง : น. ศาสนาที่สำคัญศาสนาหนึ่งของโลก มี
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6.1.2 Views on "Mohammedanism"

- ▶ A Misnomer: Unlike Buddhism or Christianity, Islam is not named after its Prophet.
- ▶ The Muslim Perspective: Muslims believe Islam was not "created" by Muhammad but revealed by Allah.
- ▶ Avoiding Friction: Calling Islam "Mohammedanism" is seen as a Western/outsider perspective that denies the religion's divine origin. Referring to it correctly as Islam shows respect for the Muslim worldview.



<https://www.blockdit.com/series/613868fd4d06050c5e82c840>

6.1.3 Defining "Muslim" and "Kafir"



- ▶ Muslim: An Arabic term for "one who submits to the supreme will of God voluntarily."
- ▶ True Identity: Being a Muslim is defined by knowledge and action, not just by birth or family lineage.
- ▶ Kafir (Non-believer): From the root Kufr, meaning "to cover" or "to conceal." In a religious sense, it refers to those who reject or conceal the truth of God's guidance.
- ▶ The Goal: Absolute obedience leads to Paradise, while rejection leads to spiritual loss.



<https://news.muslimthaipost.com/news/32309>

6.2 Historical Background

- ▶ Divine Origin: Muslims believe Islam has existed since the first human, Adam, and evolved through various prophets until reaching its perfect form with Prophet Muhammad.
- ▶ The Arab Setting: Geography: Mostly desert, inhabited by tribal societies.
- ▶ Social Structure: Deep loyalty to bloodlines and tribal chiefs (Sheiks).
- ▶ Culture: Renowned for the Arabic language—deep, rhythmic, and poetic.



<https://www.tiktok.com/discover>

The Pre-Islamic Era (Jahiliyyah)



- ▶ The Age of Ignorance: The period before Muhammad's prophecy was marked by social darkness:
- ▶ 1 Social Conditions: Oppression of women, unlimited polygamy, and the horrific practice of burying female infants alive.
- ▶ 2 Moral Decay: Gambling and intoxicants were part of daily life.
- ▶ 3 Religious Beliefs: Animism and polytheism. The Kaaba in Mecca was surrounded by 360 idols, creating deep social and spiritual division.



6.3.1 The Concept of Prophethood

- ▶ Nabi (Prophet): One who receives divine inspiration to live as an example but is not necessarily commanded to preach a new law.
- ▶ Rasul (Messenger): A Prophet who is specifically commanded by God to deliver a message or scripture to humanity.
- ▶ The Seal of the Prophets: Muslims believe Muhammad is the final Messenger sent to complete God's message for all of mankind.



Life of Prophet Muhammad (Early Years)

- ▶ Birth: April 22, 570 CE, in Mecca. A member of the Quraysh tribe.
- ▶ Childhood: Born an orphan; his father died before birth, and his mother died when he was six.
- ▶ Character: Known for his extreme honesty and integrity, earning the title "Al-Amin" (The Trustworthy).
- ▶ Marriage: At age 25, he married Khadijah, a successful businesswoman who was the first to support his mission.



The Revelation at Hira Cave



- ▶ The Search for Truth: Disturbed by social injustice, Muhammad often retreated to Hira Cave for meditation.
- ▶ The First Verse: At age 40, the Angel Gabriel (Jibril) appeared and commanded: "Read! (Iqra) In the name of your Lord who created..."
- ▶ The Quran: This marked the beginning of the 23-year revelation of the Holy Quran, God's final word to humanity.



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/21811>

The Mission and The Hijrah



- ▶ The Message: Monotheism (one God), social justice, and the end of idol worship.
- ▶ Persecution: Meccan leaders, fearing the loss of power and tradition, persecuted Muhammad and his followers.
- ▶ The Migration (Hijrah): In 622 CE, Muhammad migrated to Medina. This event marks the start of the Islamic Calendar (1 AH).



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/19808>

Final Years and Legacy



- ▶ Establishment of the State: In Medina, Muhammad became both a religious and political leader, building a community based on equity.
- ▶ Return to Mecca: He eventually returned to Mecca peacefully, cleansing the Kaaba of idols.
- ▶ Death: He passed away in Medina after completing his mission, leaving behind the Quran as a guide.



6.3.2 The Scriptures: Quran and Hadith

- ▶ The Holy Quran: The direct, literal word of God.
- ▶ Meaning: "The Recitation."
- ▶ "Status: The final, unchangeable, and most perfect scripture."
- ▶ The Hadith: Records of the Prophet's sayings, actions, and approvals, serving as a secondary guide for daily life.



Preservation of the Quran

- ▶ Oral Tradition: Initially preserved through memorization by the Prophet and his companions.
- ▶ Standardization: Compiled into a single volume during the era of Caliph Uthman to ensure the text remained identical across the growing empire.
- ▶ Divine Protection: Every word is considered sacred and is still recited in its original Arabic today.

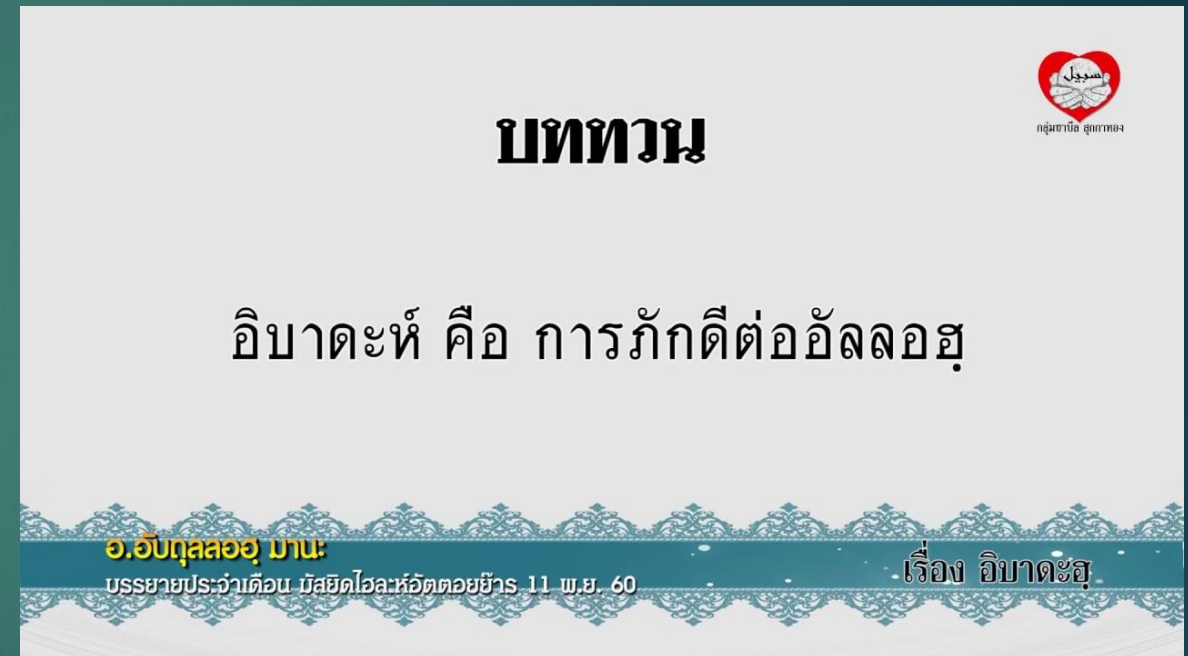


<https://www.facebook.com/beritamuslimmag/posts/1399415228307447/>

6.6 Religious Practices (The Five Pillars of Islam)



- ▶ The Essence of being Muslim: Beyond the Six Articles of Faith, a Muslim's life is guided by the Five Pillars (Arkan al-Islam).
- ▶ The Ultimate Goal: To live a life of devotion to Allah in order to achieve the ultimate reward: Paradise in the Hereafter.
- ▶ Definition: When asked "What is Islam?", Prophet Muhammad answered: "Islam is to testify that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger, to perform prayer, to pay Zakat, to fast during Ramadan, and to perform Hajj."
- ▶ Ibadah: True worship means following the path laid out by Allah from birth until death.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8lVe7NrdXQ>

6.6.1 Shahada (The Declaration of Faith)

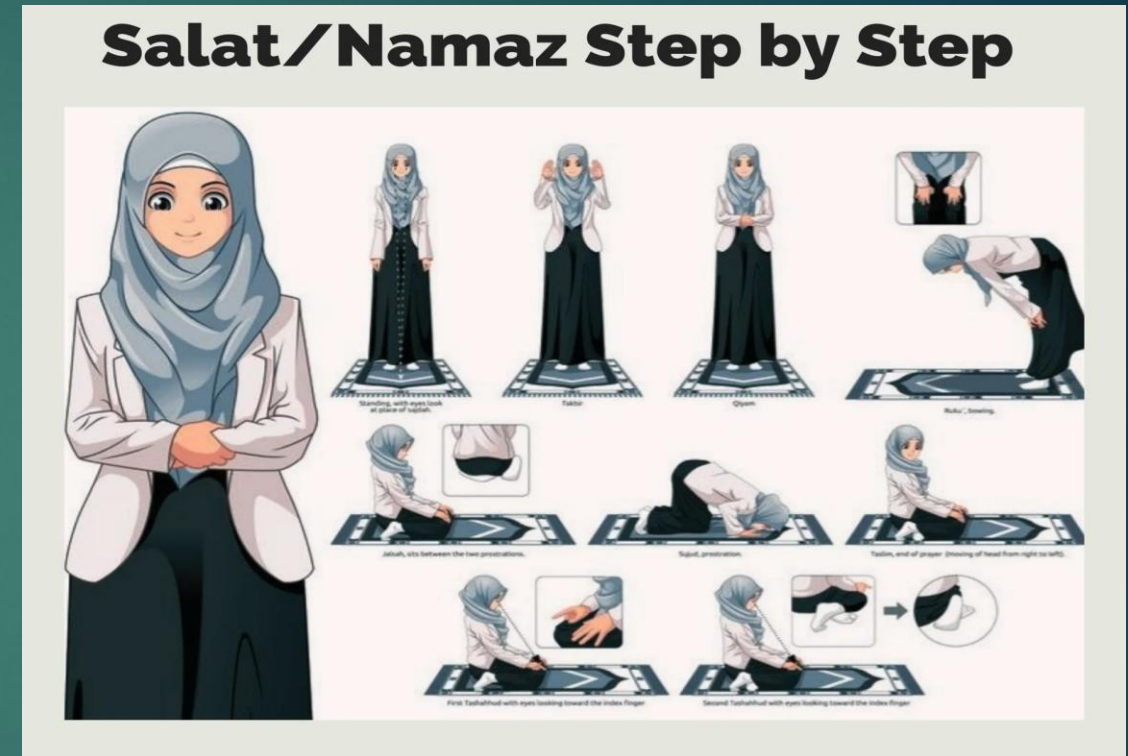
- ▶ The Starting Point: Entering Islam begins with the Shahada, a personal testimony of loyalty to the One God.
- ▶ The Declaration: "La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammad rasul Allah" (There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah).
- ▶ Commitment: It is a total surrender of the heart. Once declared, a Muslim seeks refuge only in Allah and rejects the worship of any other entities or ideologies.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62F8euSrUUc>

6.6.2 Salat (The Five Daily Prayers)

- ▶ The Proof of Faith: Faith must be proven through action. Muslims perform Salat (also known as Namaz or As-Salah).
- ▶ The Ritual: It involves physical and spiritual devotion through standing, bowing, and prostrating.
- ▶ The Five Times: 1. Fajr: Dawn. 2. Dhuhr: Noon to early afternoon. 3. Asr: Late afternoon. 4. Maghrib: After sunset. 5. Isha: Nightfall.
- ▶ Purpose: It is the "pillar of religion," acting as a spiritual bond that keeps a person disciplined, humble, and connected to the Divine.



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/19044>

6.6.3 Sawm (Fasting in Ramadan)

- ▶ The Holy Month: Fasting is required for one month during Ramadan.
- ▶ Meaning: Derived from As-Siyam, meaning to abstain or restrain oneself.
- ▶ Practice: Abstaining from food, drink, and physical intimacy from dawn until sunset.
- ▶ Inner Growth: It is a journey of self-discipline, patience, and honesty. It teaches empathy for the hungry and purifies the soul.
- ▶ Exceptions: Children, the elderly, the sick, travelers, and pregnant/nursing women are exempt but may compensate through charity or fasting later.



<https://www.facebook.com/springnewsonline/posts/%A3/1073376081490277/>

6.6.4 Zakat (Almsgiving/Charity)

- ▶ Purification of Wealth: Zakat means to purify and grow. It is an annual obligatory charity.
- ▶ The Rate: 2.5% of accumulated wealth is given to those in need.
- ▶ The Recipients: Divided into 8 categories, including the poor, the needy, those in debt, and for public welfare (hospitals/schools).
- ▶ Social Impact: It reduces the gap between the rich and the poor, ensuring that wealth circulates throughout society rather than being hoarded.



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6.6.5 Hajj (The Pilgrimage)



- ▶ A Life Journey: Unlike the other pillars, Hajj is only required once in a lifetime for those with the physical and financial means.
- ▶ Destination: The Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia—the spiritual heart of Islam.
- ▶ Significance: Millions of Muslims from every race and nation gather, dressed in simple white cloth, symbolizing the absolute equality of all humans before God.
- ▶ The Lesson: It teaches sacrifice, forgiveness, and the unity of the global Muslim community (Ummah).



6.7 Islamic Sects & Origins



- ▶ The Root of Division: Conflict did not arise from theology or core beliefs, but from politics regarding who should lead after the Prophet's death.
- ▶ Succession Models:
 - ▶ 1. Succession by Lineage: The belief that leadership belongs to the Prophet's family (Ali).
 - ▶ 2. Succession by Election: The belief that leaders should be chosen based on merit and seniority (Abu Bakr).



<https://islamhouse.muslimthaipost.com/article/21679>

6.7.2 Major Sects: Sunni and Shia

- ▶ Sunni (The Majority):
- ▶ Meaning: Followers of the Sunnah (Tradition).
- ▶ Believe in the election of the first four Caliphs.
- ▶ Focus on preserving original teachings without new interpretations.
- ▶ Shia (The Followers of Ali):
- ▶ Believe leadership (Imamate) is a divine right of the Prophet's bloodline.
- ▶ Consider the Imam as a divinely inspired leader and the sole interpreter of the Quran.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq4KQT-iSFU>

Other Notable Sects

- ▶ Khawarij: A radical group that split off, believing any pious Muslim can lead but holding extreme views on who is a "true" believer.
- ▶ Wahhabi: A reformist movement seeking to return Islam to its "purest" form, rejecting modern innovations.
- ▶ Sufi: The mystical branch of Islam, focusing on inner spirituality, asceticism, and the direct emotional experience of God.

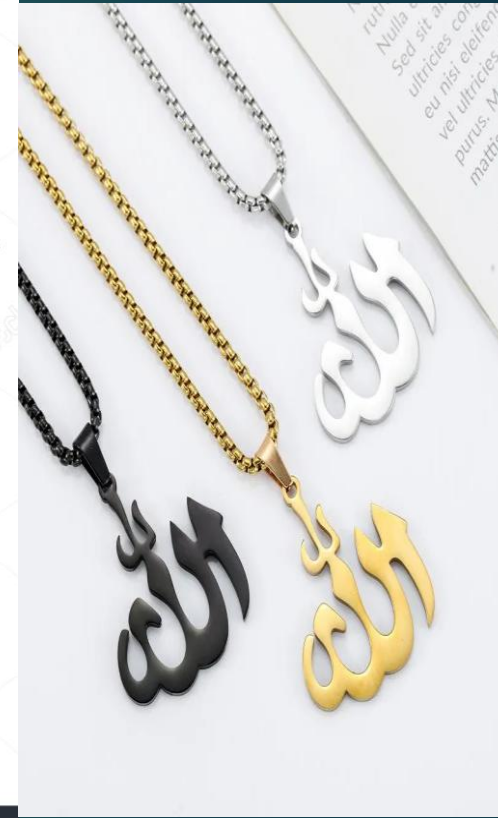


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6.8 Symbols and 6.9 Social Influence



- ▶ The Star and Crescent: Not an official religious symbol (Islam forbids idols), but a historical legacy of the Ottoman Empire.
- ▶ Global Impact: Islam brought advancements in science, navigation, and architecture.
- ▶ Islam in Thailand: A long history of peaceful coexistence. Despite modern misconceptions or political tensions in the South, Islam remains an integral part of the Thai cultural fabric, contributing to arts, language, and the economy.



<https://www.shutterstock.com/th/image-vector/islamic-icon-281664071>

Islamic privacy for world and Thai society

- ▶ World Society: Bringing progress in science, architecture, and literature (Arabian Nights) to create a society that gives women and the poor more rights.
- ▶ Thai Society: Thai couples have lived since before Sukhothai. It played a role in trade and politics in the Ayutthaya period. Influence on food (Massaman) and performing arts (Likay, Lam Tad)



