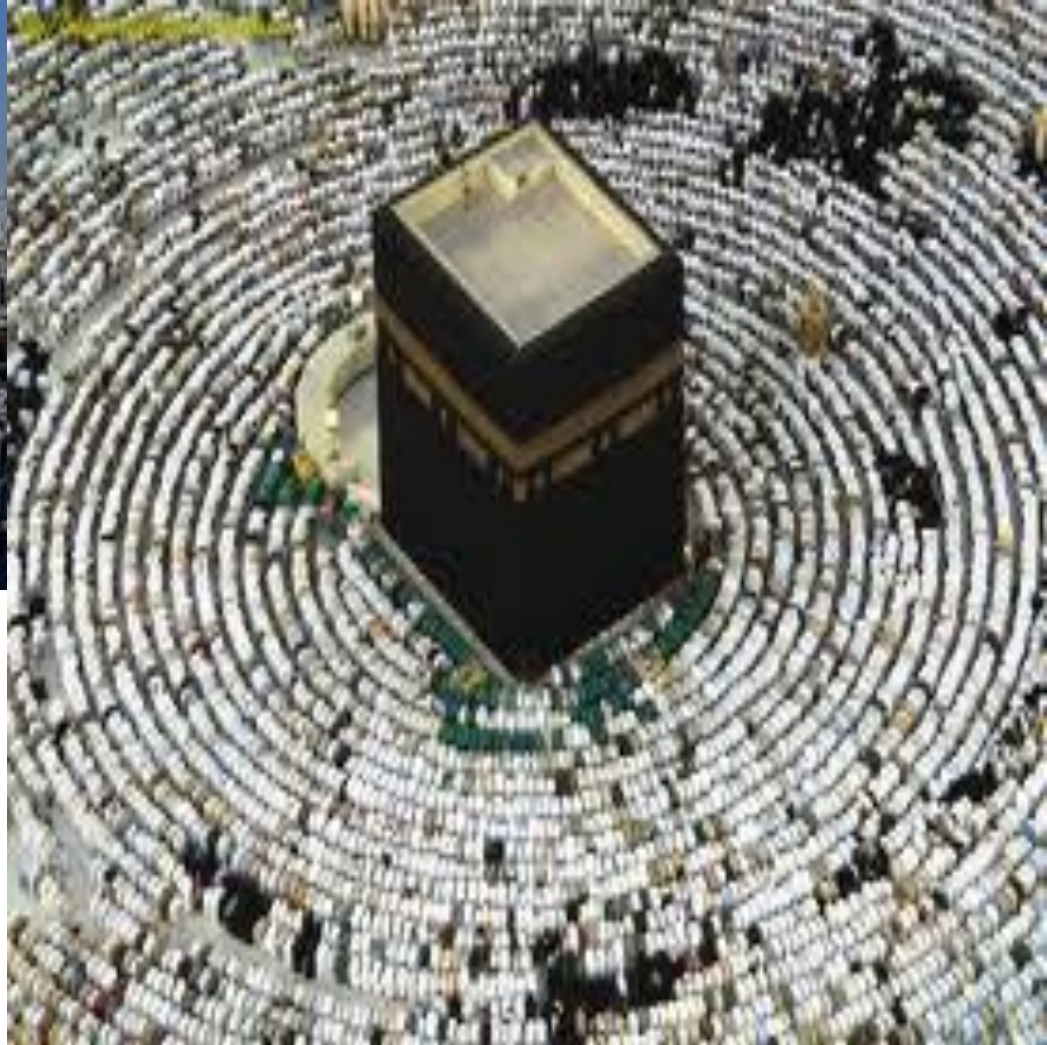


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Kaaba



Abraham and
Ishmael (Born to
Hagar)

- Say ye: “We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that give to (all) Prophets from their Lord. We make no difference between one and another of them: and we are submissive (i.e., Muslims] to Him...They say: “Become Jews or Christians if ye would be rightly guided. “ Say thou: “ Nay! (I would rather) the Religion of Abraham, the True (way), and he joined not gods with Allah.”(2:135-136)

Foundational Theology in Quran

❖ **Human Problem= Pride...Solution = Submission**

- ❖ *Tawhid* – There is No God but God (Allah = The God) – Uncompromising Monotheism – An Absolute Boundary Between Creator and Creation -- Everything has to Be Understood in Relation to God – The Constant – The Unchanging Background Against Which Reality Is the Ever changing Play - Reflects Context of Origins – Contra Arab Paganism, Zoroastrianism, Christian Incarnation Theology- A History of ‘backsliding’ from Pure Monotheism
- ❖ Theological Continuity with Judaism (note where the Dome of the Rock was built) and Its Prophets – A Direct Challenge to Zoroastrianism (Dualism) and Christianity (Incarnation)
- ❖ Human Responsibility – Acknowledge God’s Unicity, Presence and Obey Laws As Revealed Through the Prophets – **Doing what is Beautiful** – Worship God as if you See Him, for even if you do not See Him, He sees You. – **Sharia – Codification of Laws**
- ❖ No Original Sin – No Need for Redeemer (The Text = The Incarnation – Negates need for Storehouse of Salvation (i.e., Church)

- ❖ The Importance of “Signs” – in the Text and in Nature – Indicators of God’s Presence – God is at once Present and Transcendent – Nature is a Book as well
- ❖ In Terms of Texts, What is Lacking – Confusing – No Coherent Narrative (More Like Paul’s Letters) – There are intimations of biblical narratives but for the purpose of Noting Continuity with Jews/Christians and Reworking – Example = Genesis “Fall” Narrative

The Textual Order of Sacred Reality

- ❖ **Quran**
- ❖ **Hadith**
- ❖ **Sira (Biography)**

Islam – Quran and The Prophet

Distinguishing Muhammad as Channel for Revelations (**Quran**)

Muhammad is not the Author of the Book, the Book is the Author of Muhammad

The Prophet as Interpreter (mostly by act) of Revelation
(**Hadith**)

- ❖ Quran – The **Eternal** Speech-Act of God (God Incarnate of sorts = Christ?) – God/Allah Speaking to the Prophet...Say!...We...
- ❖ Composition – the Trance Induced words of Muhammad were Written Down (By Whom?) and Collected/Codified – Variants Eliminated – during the Caliphate of 'Uthman (c. 650 – Muhammad dies in 632)
- ❖ Construction of Quran – 114 suras or chapters – in general from long to short with the exception of the 1st Sura – the Fatiha
 - ❖ All That Follows is an Elaboration on the Fatiha

- **Say to those who disbelieve**, “You will be defeated, and rounded up into Hell—an awful resting-place.”
- 13. There was a sign for you in the two parties that met. One party fighting in the way of God, and the other was disbelieving. They saw them with their own eyes twice their number. But God supports with His help whomever He wills. In that is a lesson for those with insight.
- 14. Adorned for the people is the love of desires, such as women, and children, and piles upon piles of gold and silver, and branded horses, and livestock, and fields. These are the conveniences of the worldly life, but with God lies the finest resort.
- 15. Say, “Shall I inform you of something better than that? For those who are righteous, with their Lord are Gardens beneath which rivers flow, where they will remain forever, and purified spouses, and acceptance from God.” God is Observant of the servants.

- 1. In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful.
- 2. Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds.
- 3. The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
- 4. **Master of the Day of Judgment.**
- 5. It is You we worship, and upon You we call for help.
- 6. **Guide us to the straight path.**
- 7. **The path of those You have blessed, not of those against whom there is anger, nor of those who are misguided.**

The Hadith – The Creation of Sunna – The Way

- ❖ The Editing of the Stories – Care Taken for Sources? – Two “Canonical” Collections
 - ❖ **From Hadith - to *Imitatio Muhammadi***
- ❖ The Growth of the Mythic – The Bridge Between God and Humanity
- ❖ Quran, sura 94- “Have we not Soothed Your Heart? Have we not relieved you of the burden that weighed upon your back? – Becomes in the Hadith – Angels Take Muhammad to the Top of a Mountain, Open His Chest, Remove his Heart, Clean it in the Snow, Remove a Black Speck put their by the Devil and Return the Heart – That Is Muhammad is Now Portrayed as Sinless
- ❖ He Splits the Moon and Breathes Life into a Stone Bird...

Islam – Quran and the Prophet

- ❖ **Geographical Context – Arabia**
 - ❖ **The Centrality of Tribalism and Polytheism - A Polytheism that was Fundamentally Fatalistic (no afterlife, no judgement, etc.) – No Cosmic Moral Purpose – “Bedouin/Polytheistic Ethos” – for Muslims, this Polytheism was not Primal and Evolving Toward Monotheism, but A Reversal from the Original Monotheism of Abraham**
 - ❖ **The Challenges to the Such Traditional Life – Rise of Urban Trading Centers and the Persistence of Monotheists**
 - ❖ **The Context for the Life of the Prophet – Muhammad ibn Abdullah - Lack – Historical Records – Thus Reconstruction from Hints in Quran and Oral Testimonies of Companions Collected Over 100 Years After The Prophet’s Death – 1st Biography – 135 years after Muhammad’s Death**
- ❖ **Context of Biography – A Triumphant Islam – A Splintered Islam – A Challenged Islam – Having Spread Widely Encountered and Challenged by Other Religious Communities and Their Theologians – The Biography Thus Becomes a Defense (Why Muhammad? And an Explanation – What He Accomplished – Not Unlike the Gospels**

- ❖ Born Mecca – 570 – Mecca a Shrine Center – Tribesmen Sought Divine Relief/Intervention via Rituals – Muhammad's Tribe = Quraish – Guardians of the Shrine
- ❖ Muhammad Became a servant and in time the Husband of Khadija
- ❖ At Age 40 Sought Solitude in Cave – Influence of Christian Monks? Pagan Practice?
- ❖ And So Began The Revelations – Two in the Cave and Third as a Result of a Night Journey To Jerusalem on the Magic Horse and Then to the 7th Heaven – 5 Prayers
- ❖ The Early Believers – Wife – Khadija and Uncle's Son, Ali, Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman (Umayyad Clan)
- ❖ Growing Conflict Between Followers of Muhammad and Meccans – An Evolution of Belief From The Highest God of the Tribal Religion Pantheon to Monotheism? The Pattern of Resistance to a Prophet added to Threats of Economics of Pilgrimage, Tribal Political Power
- ❖ The Migration (*hijra*) to Medina – 622 – The Origins of Islamic Community-State – The *umma* – The Ties that Bound no Longer Tribal But Religious – Muslim Calendar Dated from the year of the Hijra

The Medina Chapter

- ❖ Muhammad as Leader of a Militant Clan from Mecca called in to be a Peacemaker Among Arab Tribes and Between Jewish and Arab Tribes – The Charter of Medina (the *'umma* document) forged a relationship between Emigrants, Helpers, and Jews – All Disputes Referred to God and Muhammad
- ❖ The Battles with Meccans – The Battle of Badr – An Important Precedent – God-sanctioned Warfare Over the Followers of Ignorance and Unbelief
 - ❖ The Break with the Jews and Evolution of the Elements of the Religion – Origin of Written Version of Revelations (over against Torah/NT) – Direction of Prayer to Mecca- From Ritual/Textual Appropriation of Mecca to Physical Overtaking – The *'Umra* - 630

The Decisive Taking of Mecca – 630 – Destruction of Pagan Idols

- ❖ The *'Umma* becomes a Powerful Militant Force That Absorbs (via Submission) Most of the Tribes of the Arabian Peninsular and Defeats Byzantine Armies – Pagans are Required to Submit or May be Killed
- ❖ The *Hajj* and *'Umra* are merged and with Feast of Sacrifice becomes one of the Two Major Religious Holy Periods (with Ramadan which marks the beginning of the Revelations to Muhammad) in Muslim Year
- ❖ 632 – Muhammad Dies in the Arms of *'Aisha* – There will Be No More Revelations to Humanity
- ❖ Muhammad Portrayed as a Reformer not a Founder – Calling people Back to the One True God (Jews fundamental Mistake – Chosen People/Christians Fundamental Mistake – Jesus as Divine) and As One who Models the Interdependence of Politics and Religion – From the Meccan Period of Oppression Which Called for Resistance (jihad) and Struggle – Even Unto Death
- ❖ The Emergence of the Hadith

Abbasid House of Wisdom – 750-1258 (Bagdad)



Tawhid: A Theological Imperative – A Historical Failure

“There is no god but God”

- ❖ Leadership of the ‘*Umma* – The Divisive Issue – Companions or Kinship – Initially Companions Became the *Khalifa* (“Successor” or “Deputy”)
 - ❖ Abu Bakr
 - ❖ Umar
- ❖ The third Khalifa, Uthman was chosen over Ali – Initiated Umayyad Dynasty (Damascus Based – 661-749 – Leadership no longer based on being one of the original companions but dynastic – family of Uthman – For Followers of Ali – *Shi’a* – This unlawful takeover subverted the connection to Allah and Salvation)
- ❖ Ali Assassinated (678), Eldest Son (Hasan) Sought Compromise and Retired Quietly to Medina, Younger Son (Hussein) Led a Revolt and Was Killed on the Field of **Battle at Karbala (680)** – Origins of Shiism – Followers of Ali
- ❖ 749 – The Umayyad Dynasty (Damascus based) Replaced by Relative of Descendent of Prophet’s Uncle (Abbas) and Initiated the Abbasid Dynasty (Bagdad based – 750 - 1258) – Once Again the Line of Ali Passed Over

Shi'ism

- ❖ The Emergence of the Imamate – The Imam – The ‘Guide’ – The link Between God and Humanity – Perfectly Learned, Without Fault...the Most Perfect Man of His Time – The Infallible Imam
- ❖ The Sacred History of the Murder of Shi'i Imams during the Abbasid Period - deepens the Martyr/Suffering Identity and Creates the 12th Imam Theology – The One Who Disappeared and Will Reappear as The Messiah
 - ❖ The Fracturing of Shi'ism
 - ❖ The Twelvers – By Far the Largest Sect of Shiism -
- ❖ The Isma'ilis (Established the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt – 909-1127
 - ❖ And...Druze, Alawis, Zaidis
- ❖ The Battle of Karbala (680) and the Martyrdom of Hussein Becomes a Shared Ritual Symbolizing Injustice and Promise of Redemption – Parallel to Crucifixion/Resurrection
- ❖ For Shiites, the issues of Leadership and Authority Become Linked to Salvation

- 749 – The Umayyad Dynasty (Damascus based) Replaced by Relative of Descendent of Prophet's Uncle (Abbas) and Initiated the Abbasid Dynasty (Bagdad-based – 750 - 1258)
- The End of the Abbasid Dynasty saw the Rise of Various Islamic Dominions or Kingdoms
 - Mughal (India)
 - Fatimid (Egypt)
 - Seljuk - Ottoman (Turkey)

Shi'ism and Iran

Shi'i Religious Practice

- ❖ The Central Role of Intercession – Imams as Divinely Guided Models, Guides and Intermediaries
 - ❖ Intercession Tied to a Redemptive Model of Salvation – The Redemptive Death of Hussein – “A Ransom for His People” – Thus the Importance of *Ashura* – Religious holy day and rituals that for Shi'ites marks the death of Hussein – a day of atonement
 - ❖ Fatima Similar to the Virgin Mary – Immaculate and Sinless
 - ❖ Ritual Practices for Sake of Atonement and Salvation
- ❖ In Shi'ite Iran – Mullahs Are typically village low level clerics who may not have formal training in interpreting Sharia – *Mujtahid* are trained and licensed to interpret – *ijtihad* - Shari'a – From the ranks of the *mujtahid* come the *ayatallah* and from them arise the Grand Ayatollahs
- ❖ For Sunni Islam, in theory the 'gates of *ijtihad*' closed after the Abbasid Period
- ❖ Shi'ism Differs in the Sense that the 'gates' have never closed – Senior Shi'a 'ulama continue to serve as *mujtahid* – Individual Interpreters of the Law and may be granted the title *Ayatallah* – This sense of ongoing interpretation creates hermeneutical flexibility
- ❖ An Independent and Financially Supported Clergy (to include at times a Militant Arm) – That Rules Over Civil and Religious Life – a True Theocracy