

Introduction to Pillars of Islaam and Articles of Faith (part 2 of 2)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Six Articles of Faith

Faith is referred to in Arabic as 'Eemaan. It represents firm belief in the heart, and not simply blind faith. Islaamic doctrine revolves around six aspects described by the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*).

1. Belief in Allaah, which entails the following:

(a) Belief in Allaah's existence.

(b) Allaah is the Lord. He is the Creator, the Provider, the Sustainer, and the Owner of the entire universe. None has any share in these roles.

(c) Allaah is the only being entitled to worship. No worship, service or veneration is to be offered to others besides Allaah or along with Him, whether they be prophets, priests, saints, angels, idols, or stones.

(d) Allaah has the most beautiful and perfect of names and attributes, which none can be compared to. He is Unique, separate and unlike His creation. No evil or deficiency can be attributed to Him.

2. Belief in the Angels, which entails the following:

(a) Belief in the existence of angels, a creation of Allaah.

(b) Belief that they have no right to receive any form of worship

(c) Belief in the names by which the angels are identified in the Qur'aan and Sunnah [teachings of Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)].

(d) Belief in the special tasks assigned to each of them by Allaah in the Qur'aan and Sunnah [teachings of Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)].

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3. Belief in the Revealed Scriptures, which entails the following:

- (a) Belief that Allaah revealed scriptures to various prophets.
- (b) Belief that they contained the truth from Allaah.
- (c) Belief that all previous scriptures other than the Qur'aan have been altered.
- (d) Belief in the Qur'aan has several aspects:
 - a) Belief that it is one of the scriptures of Allaah.
 - b) Belief that it is the Final Revelation to humanity, and that no other scripture will be revealed after it.
 - c) Belief that everything in it is true, containing no falseness.
 - d) Belief that it has remained unchanged, and will remain so for eternity.
 - e) Belief that it has abrogated all previous scriptures before it.

4. Belief in the Messengers, which entails the following:

- (a) Belief that Allaah sent prophets to every nation, calling them to worship and obey Allaah Alone. One must believe in all of them, known or unknown, without rejecting any of them.
- (b) Belief that they were the best of humanity, chosen due to their virtuousness.
- (c) Belief that they were mere humans, not divine in any way, and that they do not have any right to receive worship, nor did they claim so.
- (d) Belief that they merely conveyed the message from Allaah and did not legislate from their own selves.
- (e) Belief that they did not err in conveying the message.
- (f) Belief that obedience to them is a must.
- (g) Belief that Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) was a prophet, which entails those issues discussed in the article entitled *The Testimony of Faith*.

5. Belief in Life after Death and the Final Day of Judgment, which entails the following:

- (a) Belief that a day will come when everything will come to an end, and Allaah will raise the creation and judge them according to their deeds.

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(b) Belief that those who believed and practically followed the correct religion by following the prophets will enter Paradise for eternity, and that those who disbelieved will enter the Hellfire for eternity.

6. Belief in Divine Decree, which entails the following:

(a) Belief that Allaah's Foreknowledge is all inclusive and complete. He has always known everything that would or would not happen, even before the creation of mankind.

(b) Belief that Allaah has recorded everything that was going to occur until the Day of Judgment in a book known as "The Mother of the Books" or "The Preserved Tablet".

(c) Belief that whatever Allaah willed has occurred, is occurring, and will occur. Nothing occurs against or without this Will.

(d) Allaah created everything.