

The concept of God in Islam

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We know God (Allah) as He described Himself

- In the Qur'an Allah has 99 attributes of perfection (the beautiful names of Allah)

“ And to God belongs the most beautiful names, so call on Him by His names, and shun those who distort His names”

Al-Ara'f 7 : 180

- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us to consider what God created and His signs around us, but not His innate nature

We can see God's signs all around us and in ourselves

“ We will show them Our signs in the universe around them, as well as within themselves, till it becomes clear to them that this is the truth. Is it not enough that your Lord does witness all things? “

Fusselat 41 : 53

Examples of Allah's attributes

- Allah created us & provides for us
- Allah guides us to His way (Divine books & Messengers)
- Allah forgives our sins & is most merciful
- Allah knows well everything that we do
- Allah controls our destiny
- We are accountable to Allah: there is a Day of Judgment

What does Taqwa (Righteousness & piety) mean?

- Obeying God's commandments
- Watching our behavior because God knows well all that we do
- Doing our best to please God, because we understand and appreciate His blessings
- We understand that we are accountable for what we say and do

Ihsan (Goodness)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:
Ihsan is to worship & serve God as if
you see Him; since you do not see
Him know that God sees you)

Bokhari & Muslim

Sacred texts to Muslims

- 1- The Qur'an is Allah's divine revelation inspired to prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the angel Gabriel. It was revealed in Arabic, but its meaning translated into many languages. The Arabic Qur'an was safeguarded.
- 2- The Sunnah (tradition) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): his sayings, actions and what he approved. The Sunnah is documented in authentic books of Hadeeth

The Prophet's mission

- To deliver God's message
- To explain the Qur'an
- To apply the guidelines of the Qur'an in his character & behavior and to serve as an example to mankind
- To teach future generations and spread useful knowledge

O Prophet Explain the Qur'an

“ And We sent down to you this message in order that you may explain it to mankind, that they may reflect and consider “

An-Nahl 16 : 44

“ How do you reject faith while God's signs are being related to you, and amongst you lives His messenger? “

Al-Imran 3 : 101

How does a person far from God get close to Him?

- 1-By obeying God's commands and living his life as God told us to do
- 2-By having piety and sincerity
- 3-By being kind & forgiving
- 4- By being of service to others
- 5- By being honest & truthful
- 6- By remembering God, praying to Him & seeking His forgiveness

The Qur'an told us that Allah loves the following people

- Those who are pious & righteous
- Those who are patient & persevere
- Those who do good and help others
- Those who are truthful & honest
- Those who repent and seek God's forgiveness and do not persist in wrong-doing

How does a person who made mistakes get right with God?

Through repentance & seeking God's forgiveness; the steps are:

- Understanding that we made a mistake or committed sin, and feeling sorry & ashamed
- Turning to God seeking His forgiveness & making a pledge not to repeat that mistake
- Doing good to atone for our sins

The steps of repentance

“Unless he repents, believes and work righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, for Allah is often-forgiving, most-merciful”

Al-Furqan 25 : 70

“ But without doubt I am he that forgives again and again to those who repent, believe and do good, who are on true guidance”

Ta Ha 20 : 82

Follow a bad deed with a good deed

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said :

(Be God-conscious at all times; follow a bad deed with a good deed, it will wipe it out; and behave with others with noble character)

Abou Dawood

My life is a mess: what do I do?

- 1- Am I doing something wrong, then I should correct my mistakes and wrong behavior!
- 2-Or am I being tested and tried by God, therefore I must patiently persevere and not loose faith

Many misfortunes are our own doing

“ Whatever misfortune happens to you is because of what your own hands have wrought, and for many a sin He forgives “

Ash-Shura’ 42 : 30

It is normal to be tested & tried

**“ And We shall test you and try you until
We test those among you who strive
their utmost and persevere in patience,
and We shall test your mettle “**

Muhammad 47 : 31

Muslims regard Jesus (PBUH) as God's prophet

- God sent Jesus as His messenger to the Children of Israel
- God gave Jesus extraordinary powers or miracles
- Jesus was born from a mother but no father
- Jesus was not crucified, nor was he killed
- He called on his people to worship only one God

Worship Allah my Lord & your Lord

“ It is Allah Who is my Lord and your Lord, then worship Him”

Al-Imran 3 : 51

“ And Allah will teach him the Book and Wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel, and send him as a messenger to the Children of Israel”

Al-Imran 3 : 48

Jesus gave prophecy of the coming of Muhammad (PBUH)

“ And remember Jesus, the son of Mary said: “ O Children of Israel I am the messenger of Allah to you, confirming the Torah before me, and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad “

As-Saff 61 : 6

What is the life after this life like?

After we die and are buried in the grave Allah will resurrect us, and each person will answer and account for his deeds. Man argued about resurrection and accountability. The Qur'an states that God who gave you life to begin with is surely capable of raising you up after you die

Man argues about resurrection

“ And he makes comparisons for us and forgets his own origin and creation: he says: “ Who can give life to dry bones and decomposed at that?” Say: “ He will give them life Who created them for the first time, for He fully knows all creation”

Yasin 36 : 78 & 79

What do we know about life in the Hereafter ?

- Eternal
- Mansions With rivers flowing underneath
- No illness, sadness, difficulty or boredom
- We will have whatever we desire
- We will see God
- It is much better than this life

Physical & emotional pleasures

“ Gardens of eternity will they enter: therein they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and their garments will be of silk. And they will say: “ Praise be to God Who has removed from us all sorrow, for our Lord is Often-Forgiving, ready to appreciate service. Who has out of His bounty settled us in a home that will last, no toil, no sense of weariness shall touch us therein”

Fatir 35 : 33-35

Jihad (striving in the cause of Allah)

Jihad is misunderstood and is not meant to imply holy war. Jihad means active struggle and involves :

- Jihad to control our vain desires
- Jihad to obey God and His commands, and not fall under Satan's influence
- Jihad to explain the truth and patiently persevere in adversity
- Finally fighting to defend ourselves, our families or country against aggression

Fighting in Islam

- Fighting is only for the cause of God, not for personal reasons
- Fighting to defend ourselves from aggression
- No aggression is to be committed by those fighting (no killing of innocent civilians or destruction of property)
- When calls for truce or peace are made they should be accepted

Do not commit aggression

“ And fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but commit no aggression, for God loves not aggressors “

Al-Baqara 2 : 190