

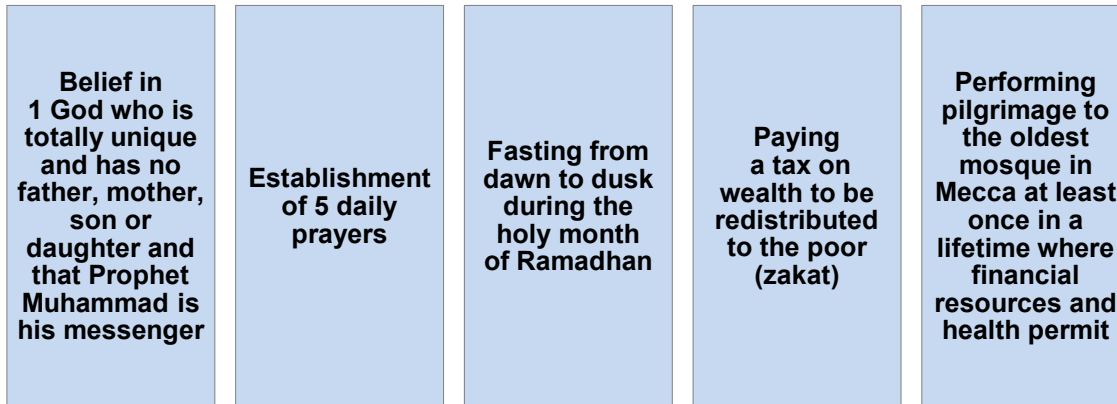


## Fun Facts About Islam

- Islam is one of the 3 great monotheistic religions alongside Christianity and Judaism and shares many common values and heritage:
  - A belief in one true God (Allah)
  - A belief that all men and women were created equal, regardless of race, ethnicity etc and that we will all be judged on our actions on the Day of Judgment
  - A belief that God sent down messengers to Earth, some of them with scriptures, starting with Adam and ending with Prophet Muhammad. The Holy Quran is the last in a line of scriptures sent down to various prophets including the Taurat (Torah) and Injil (the Old Testament)
  - We share many common messengers with Christianity and Judaism including Prophet Abraham, one of our 5 great prophets in Islam
  - The Prophet mentioned the most in the Quran is Prophet Moses as his struggles were to be a guidance for the Prophet Muhammad who faced many similar struggles
  - We also venerate Mary (and her virgin miraculous birth to Prophet Jesus) who was the best woman of her time



- Islam is based on **5 pillars**:



- Muslims in 2020 comprised 1.9 billion people around the world ranging from the Uighur Muslims in China to West Africans in Timbuktu and beyond. It is a diverse and multicultural faith with 2 main sects (Sunni and Shia) and different views. It is also the fastest growing religion in the world despite a lot of negative stereotypes.
- The Prophet Muhammad's first commandment was to read and his followers were encouraged to explore and learn about Allah's wondrous creation. We have a duty as Muslims to think for ourselves in order to understand our purpose in life. The oldest university in the world according to Unesco is in Islamic one in Morocco (University of Al Quraraouiine) founded in 859 and handing out degrees to this day.
- Prophet Muhammad's beloved first wife (who died) was Khadija, a business woman 15 years his senior who proposed marriage to him. 1400 years before Western civilisation began to afford civil rights to women, the Quran confirmed womens' inherent rights to life, property, education, non-discrimination etc.
- Prophet Muhammad was harshly persecuted by his tribe (the Quraysh) in Mecca because he challenged their system of power by opposing, inter alia, idolatry, female infanticide, slavery, corrupt dealings, concentration of wealth in an elite few etc. A lot of these issues persist today and Islam provides a unique perspective to discussions about economic oppression, equality, etc.