

Key Words

Monotheism	Tawhid	Sawm	Transcendence	Zakat	Rakat	Immanence	Beneficence	Du'ah
Shahadah	Hajj	Shirk	Sadaqah	Qur'an	Mihrab	Salat	Muezzin	Qiblah
Omnipotence	Adhan	Sunnah	Allah (99 names)	Islam	Minaret	Merciful	Halal	Hadith

The Nature of God

Muslims believe that Allah is one. The word comes from the Arabic al-ilah, meaning the only god. The Shahadah, the declaration of faith, states that Allah is the only god. This belief is best summed up in the word tawhid: the belief that Allah is the only god.

Islam teaches that Allah has 99 names. Images of humans or animals are not allowed in the Islam faith and so these names help Muslims to understand the nature of Allah. Some examples of these names are as follows:

Immanence	Allah is always involved in the world and knows every single human being.
Transcendence	There is no equal to Allah and is not to be thought of as human in any way (hence the ban images).
Omnipotence	Allah created everything and is all-powerful.
Merciful	Allah shows compassion and mercy. 113 out of 114 chapters in the Qur'an start with this: 'bismillah'.
Beneficence	Allah does no evil and is all-good.

Key Sources of Authority

Qur'an Hadith Sunnah

As stated in the Overview Knowledge Organiser, Islam means 'submission to God'. Muslims must try and live a life in submission to the will of Allah. Here, the importance of Greater Jihad needs to be highlighted. This is a spiritual struggle within oneself against sin. It could be against drug addiction, for example. The important thing is that this is a personal struggle.

Greater Jihad is about striving to be the best Muslim possible. This could include: following the five pillars, studying the Qur'an, helping those in need and forgiving others. Someone might even try and learn the Qur'an off by heart (hafiz).

Shahadah is the declaration of faith: 'there is no god but God (Allah) and Muhammad is the messenger of God'.

Shahadah should be the first thing a new born Muslim baby should hear whispered into their ear and the last thing a dying Muslim should hear. It is also heard in the adhan – the call to prayer – and recited by Muslims at prayers five times daily. To become a Muslim a person only needs to recite the Shahadah in front of two witnesses. Shirk is the idea that a belief in any other god or that anything is equal to Allah is a sin. It is considered to be the worst sin. This is why there are no images of Allah or any human figure. Therefore, polytheism – a belief in many gods – is definitely out. Most Arab tribes before Muhammad believed in many gods. It is said there were up to 360 gods worshipped as idols in the Kaaba before Muhammad.