



The religion of the Muslims, a monotheistic faith regarded as revealed through Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah.

- 17 ...Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of Heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for god has heard the voice of the lad [Abraham's and Hagar's son Ishmael] where he is.
- 18 Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."...
- 20 So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer." *NKJV*

*According to the Genesis account, he died at the age of 137.*

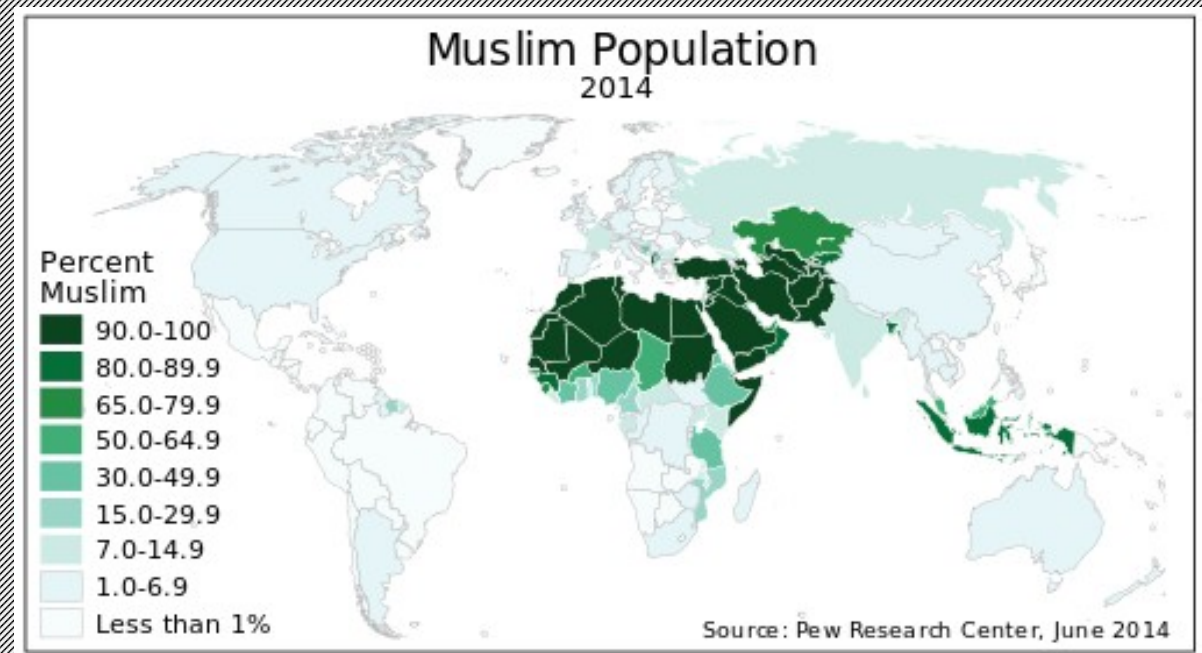
- We have a choice...
- We can cling to our fear and ignorance of Islam, ...
- Or we can move past the rhetoric of us/them and find our shared values of kindness and generosity...

- “Be bridge builders, not wall builders.”

- Over 1.7 billion or about 23.4% of the world population
- 91.2% in the Middle East-North Africa
- 29.6% in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 24.8% in Asia-Oceania
- 6.0% in Europe
- 0.6% in the Americas
- Pew Report predicts that Muslims

equal the world's Christian population by 2050 and...

- Will surpass Christians by 2070.



- Islam is reflective of many cultures whose traditions supersede Islam's beginnings and are therefore intertwined with Islam.
  - Segregation of the sexes: Byzantine and Persia
  - Female circumcision: Northern Africa - Pre-dates Christians, Animists, Arabs, but includes these belief groups in practices today.
- Like Christianity and Judaism, Islam depicts man as a responsible agent.
- The rise of Islam helped establish the worth of individualism vs. worth of the tribe.
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries - Islamic Modernism embraced the ideas of Western Europe: science, technology, democracy and citizenship
- Change occurred with the colonialization of the Middle East following WWI. (British/French Sykes-Picot Agreement, 1916)
- Western governments removed from colonial power following WWII.



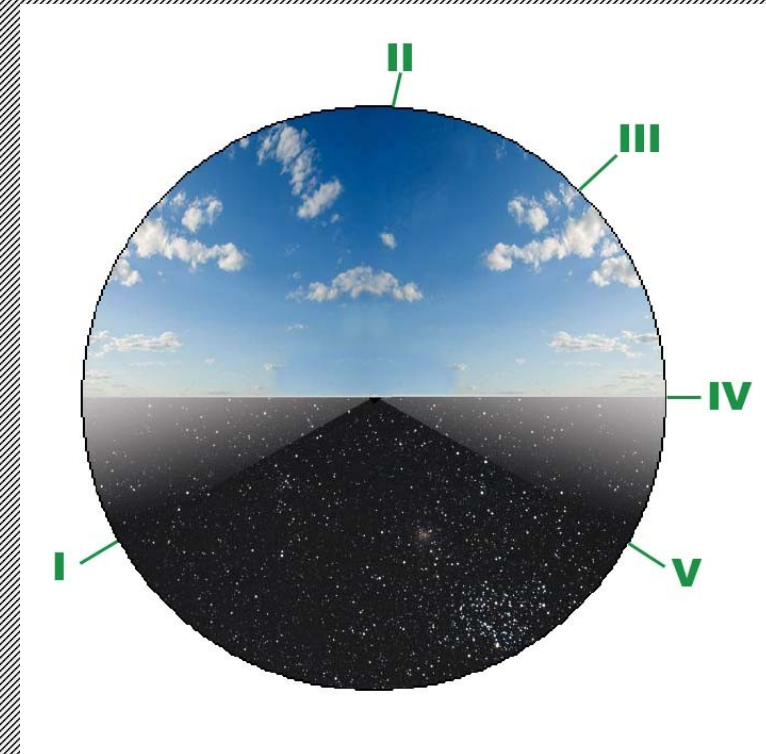
- Shahadah: the statement of faith.
- Salat: daily prayers.
- Zakat: charity.
- Sawm: fasting. Ramadan..
- Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca. (2017 - August 30 to September 4)



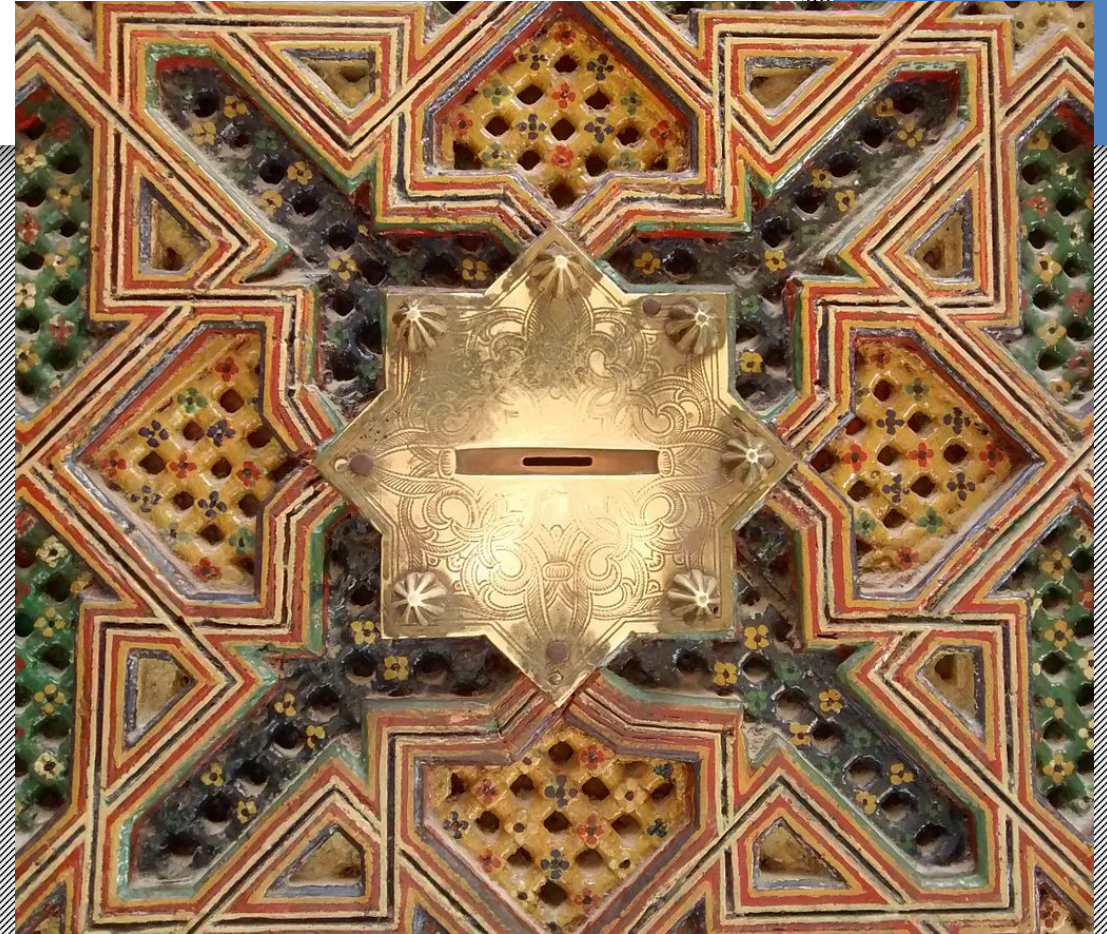


- ***"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."***
- When a Muslim recites this they proclaim:
  - That Allah is the only God, and that Muhammad is his prophet
  - That they personally accept this as true
  - That they will obey all the commitments of Islam in their life
  - The Shahadah is the first of the Five Pillars of Islam.
- Becoming a Muslim - Reciting this statement three times in front of witnesses is all that anyone need do to become a Muslim.
- A Muslim is expected to recite this statement out loud, with total conviction, fully understanding it, but it can also be recited in a whisper.

- Salat is prayer to focus the mind on God, and is seen as a personal communication with him that expresses gratitude and worship.
- God ordered Muslims to pray at five set times of day:
  - Salat al-fajr: dawn, before sunrise.
  - Salat al-zuhr: midday, after the sun passes its highest.
  - Salat al-'asr: the late part of the afternoon.
  - Salat al-maghrib: just after sunset.
  - Salat al-'isha: between sunset and midnight.



- Zakat: "that which purifies"
- Not a charitable contribution, but a tax to be paid only by those who are able.
- Zakat is based on income and the value of all of one's possessions.



A slot for giving zakat at the Zaouia Moulay Idriss II in Fez, Morocco

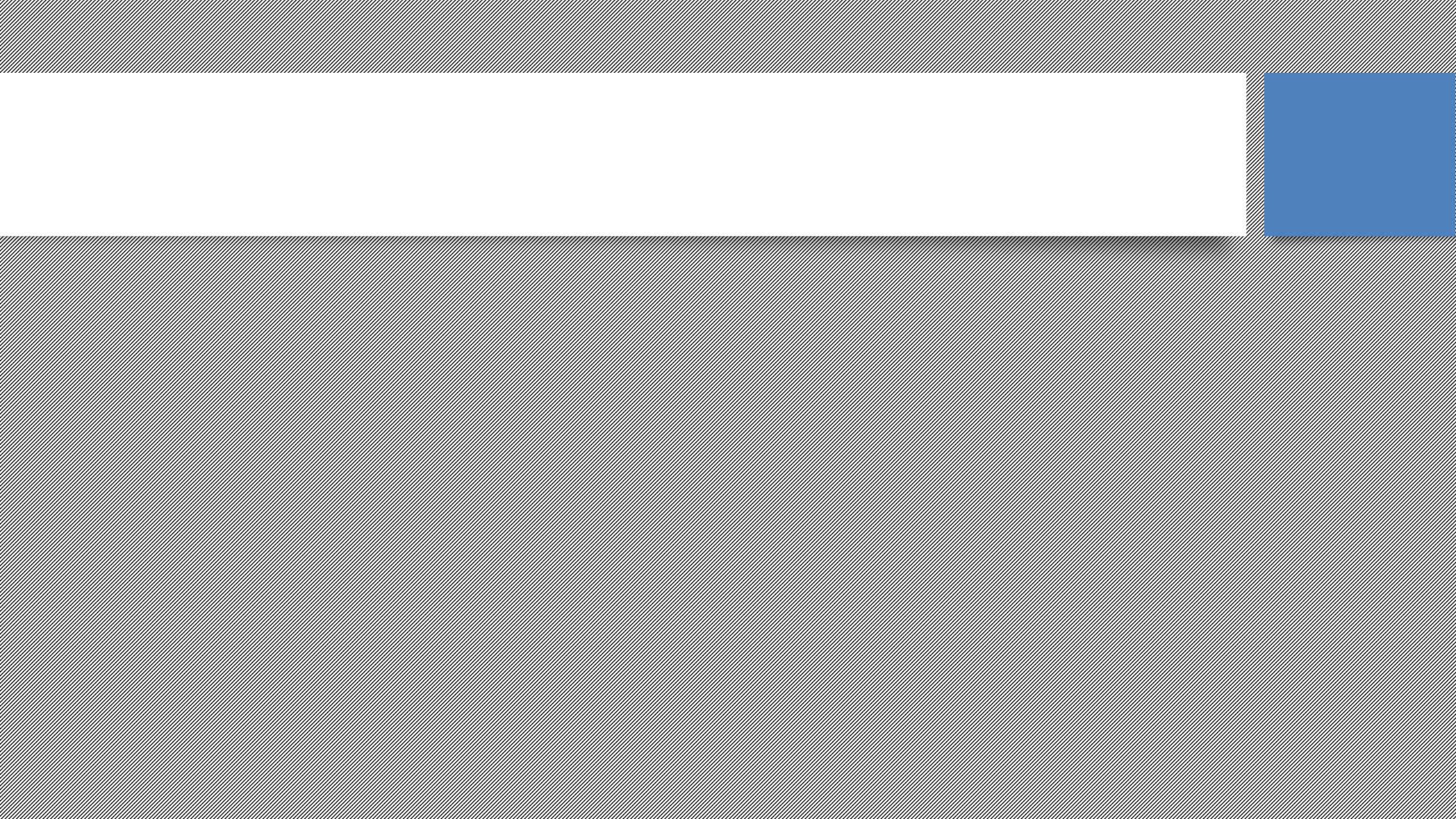
- In the terminology of Islamic law, *sawm* means to abstain from eating and drinking during daylight hours.
- The observance of *sawm* during the Islamic holy month of *Ramadan* is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, but is not confined to that month.
- *Ramadan* (*Fard* - fasting during this holy month) - the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief.

- An annual Islamic *pilgrimage* to Mecca, the most holy city of the Muslims.
- A mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey, and can support their family during their absence.
- The Hajj is the largest annual gathering of people in the world.



The Black Stone of Mecca, or Kaaba Stone, is a Muslim relic, which according to Islamic tradition dates back to the time of Adam and Eve. ... The Stone is a dark rock, polished smooth by the hands of millions of pilgrims, that has been broken into a number of fragments cemented into a silver frame in the side of the Kaaba.









“Look for the soul---you become the soul.  
Hunt for the bread---you become the bread.  
Whatever you look for---you are.”

Sufi poet Rumi

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- Karen Armstrong: MAbrahamic Connections - The Charter for Compassion. TEDTalk. 2008.
- Adam Hamilton: A Christian Response to Islamic Terrorism: FACING ISSUES THAT DIVIDE. 2016. [http://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/facing-issues-that-divide#d/sermon/1935/cor\\_1](http://cor.org/leawood/sermon-series/facing-issues-that-divide#d/sermon/1935/cor_1)
- Lesley Hazleton: On Reading the Koran. TEDTalk. 2010.