

What Others Say About Islam

Sarojini Naidu

(1879-1949) A writer, poetess and one of the most visible leaders of pre-Independent India. President of the Indian National Congress and the first woman governor of free India.

"Sense of justice is one of the most wonderful ideals of Islam, because as I read in the Qur'an I find those dynamic principles of life, not mystic but practical ethics for the daily conduct of life suited to the whole world."

"It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy for, in the mosque when the call for prayer is sounded and worshippers are gathered together, the democracy of Islam is embodied five times a day when the peasant and king kneel side by side and proclaim: "God Alone is Great." I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity of Islam that makes man instinctively a brother."

[Lectures on "The Ideals of Islam;" see Speeches And Writings Of Sarojini Naidu, Madras, 1918, pp. 167-9]

Edward Gibbon

(1737-1794) Considered the greatest British historian of his time.

"I believe in One God and Muhammad the Apostle of God, is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol; the honours of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue, and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion."

[History Of The Saracen Empire, London, 1870, p. 54.]

Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi

(1869-1948) Indian thinker, statesman, and nationalist leader.

"...I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind...I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These, and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble."

[Young India (periodical), 1928, Volume X]

"The sayings of Muhammad are a treasure of wisdom not only for Muslims but for all of mankind."

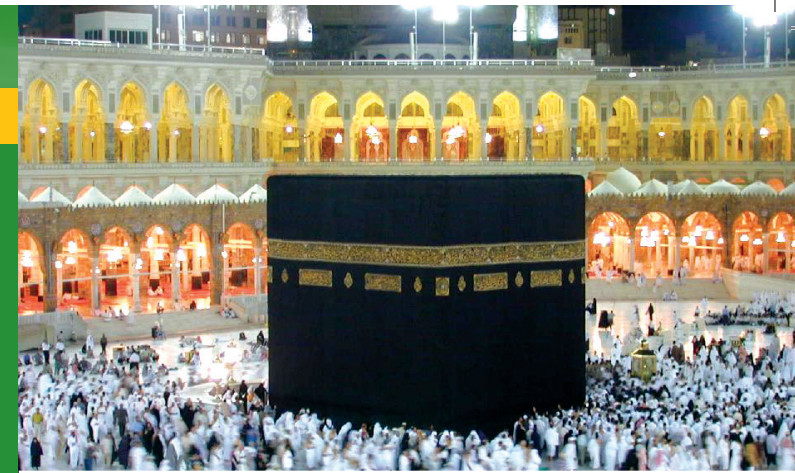
[Mahatma Gandhi, statement published in 'Young India,'1924]

Further Information

If you would like further information on Islam, please contact:



Islamic & Cultural Affairs Committee
The Council of European Jamaats
22 Estreham Road, London, SW16 5PQ
Registered Charity in UK No: 1096111
Tel: +44(0)845 330 6012 - Fax: +44(0)845 330 6014
Email: ica@coej.org
Website: www.coej.org



Al-Islam

An introduction

"In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. The Beneficent, the Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgement. Thee (alone) do we serve and Thee (alone) do we beseech for help. Keep us on the right path. The path of those upon whom Thou hast bestowed favours. Not (the path) of those upon whom Thy wrath is brought down, nor of those who go astray."

[Holy Qur'an, Chapter 1]

The word "Islam" is an Arabic word and means "submission to the will of God". Submitting to God means that we trust in His knowledge, wisdom, and justice.

Islam is a pure way of life. True adherence to Islam means that Muslims are committed to peace, justice, equality, compassion, and the pursuit of knowledge.



Islamic Belief

Allah (God)

Muslims are the followers of the religion of Islam, they are those who submit to the will of Allah (God). Islam is a monotheistic religion and teaches that Allah is the one and only God who is the origin and creator of the universe. For Muslims, God has many names each describing his different attributes. Allah is the most inclusive name of God. It is an Arabic word indicating the one who is adored in worship and who creates everything that exists.

Qur'an - The Holy Book

The Holy Book of Islam, the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and is the word of Allah. The text of the Qur'an has remained unchanged even though it is now more than 1400 years since its revelation.

This holy book contains Allah's guidance and commandments which are valid for all times and all places, and which cover all aspects of human life. Many scientific facts and realities are present in the Qur'an, which is the only religious book not to contradict science, because it is the book of the Creator of the worlds.

Divine Guidance

Allah has sent numerous Prophets and Messengers to guide humankind since the dawn of history. Prophet Muhammad was the last of the messengers and a perfect role model and example for all of mankind. His life reflected how to live Islam according to the book revealed to him, the Holy Qur'an.

Prophet Muhammad was patient, kind, truthful, chairtable

and pure. All his actions, words and mannerisms were in line with the commandments of Allah. After the death of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the system of divine guidance continued in the form of Imam. Imam is spiritual leadership from the family of the Prophet also known as the Ahlul Bayt. For each era is divinely appointed guide or Imam from the lineage of the Prophet. Imam Mahdi is the 12th and final Imam who is the divine guide of the current time.

The Hereafter

Islam teaches that human beings are born pure and sinless. Muslims believe that life is a gift from God and that we are tested on how we live our lives in this world.

On the day of judgement our deeds will be judged by Allah and we will be rewarded or punished accordingly. Following the commandments of Allah and acting righteously will lead believers to heavenly abode. Allah's mercy and forgiveness has been promised for those who sincerely repent for their sins and endeavour not to repeat them.

Islamic Practices

The daily life of a Muslim involves remaining connected with his merciful God through the five daily salaah (prayer) and Taqwa (being God-conscious) in all aspects of his life. Other practices include sawm (fasting) during the Holy month of Ramadhan, Hajj (pilgrimage to mecca), zakaat and khums (Islamic dues and charity).

Abrahamic Roots

Abrahamic faiths are monotheistic (believe in the existence of One God) and originate from Abraham who is seen as the founder of three God worshipping communities. These are Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Together with Abraham, Adam, Job, Noah, Jonah, Moses and many others (peace be upon them) are the Messengers of Allah. Jesus (peace be upon him) in Islam is respected and considered to be one of Allah's greatest messengers to humankind, but not the son of God.

The Qur'an reaffirms Jesus' miraculous birth and divine abilities as well as referring to his mother, Mary as the purest women of all creation.

Islam and Human Rights

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, however it is also the most misunderstood religion. Muslims are sometimes portrayed as extremists and fanatics, yet it is important to note that true Islam teaches that human beings have a moral obligation to live in harmony with one another.

Islam regards all humans as equal regardless of race, color or creed and also requires its followers to show respect and tolerance to those who do not share their beliefs. Islam encourages Muslims to respect the rights of all living things and is a religion based on peace.