



The Essential Foundation of Islamic Faith and Identity

A comprehensive guide to the pure
monotheism of Islam.

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A State of Being, Not a Human Affiliation

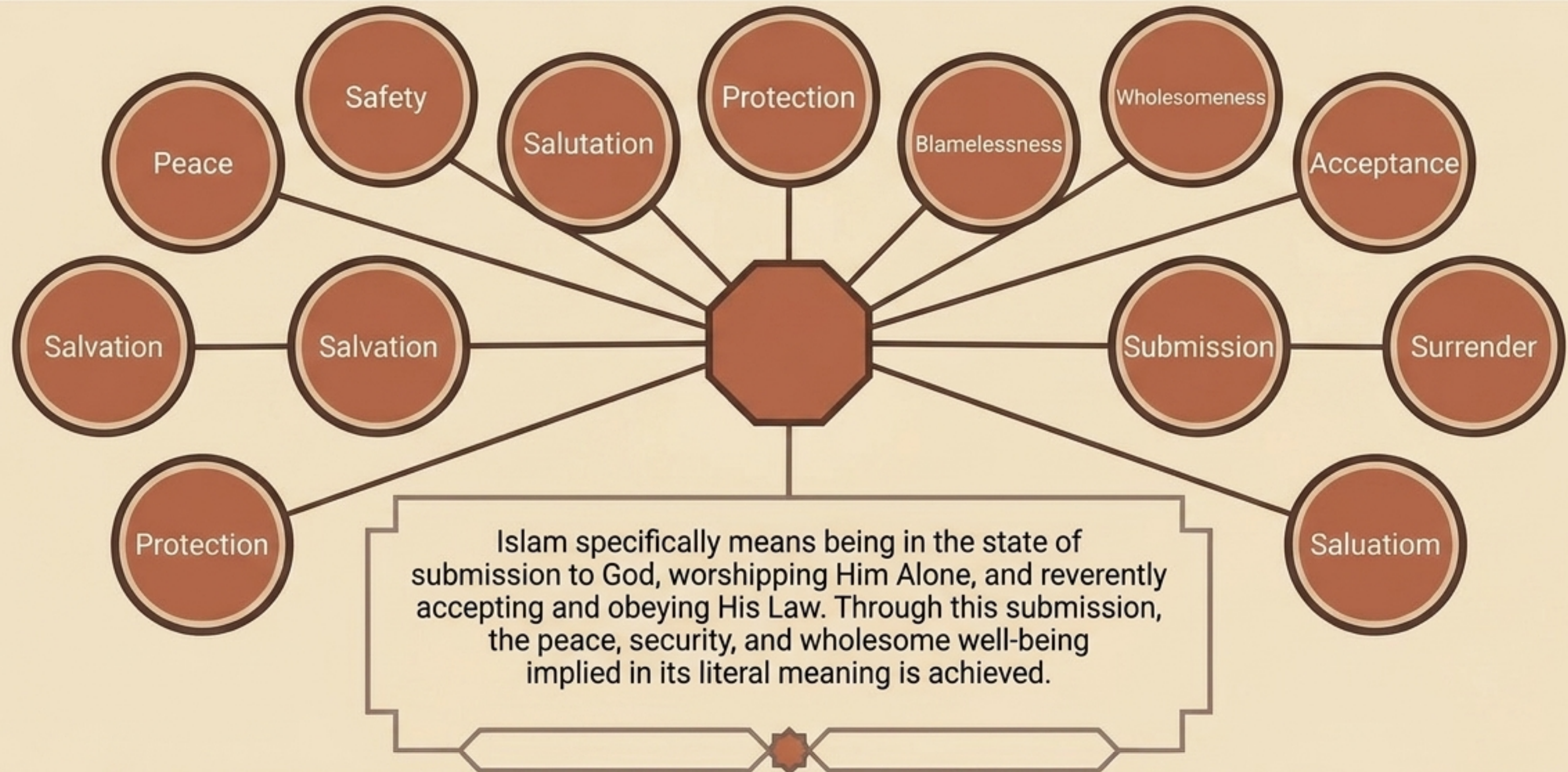


Islam does not refer to any particular person (such as Christianity, Buddhism, or Zoroastrianism), a tribe (like Judaism), or a nation (like Hinduism).



Islam is the name of the religion, or more properly the "way of life", which God (Allah) has revealed and which was practiced by all of the Prophets and Messengers of God that He sent to mankind. A person's Islam weakens through sins, ignorance, and wrong-doing, and becomes nullified in totality by associating partners with God or disbelieving in Him.

The Linguistic Roots and Complete Definition of Islam



The Universal Message Spans Across All Nations

The Arabic word "Muslim" literally means "someone who is in a state of Islam (submission to the will and law of God)". The message of Islam is meant for the entire world, and anyone who accepts this message becomes a Muslim.



Islam has always been a universal message for all people. Early companions of the Prophet Muhammad included not only Arabs, but also Persians, Africans, and Byzantine Romans.

Over 80% of the world's Muslims are not Arabs. Even though most Arabs are Muslims, there are Arabs who are Christians, Jews, and atheists. Muslims come from all different races, ethnic groups, cultures, and nationalities.

Correcting the Misnomer of 'Mohammedans'

The label "Mohammedans" was often used for Muslims as a result of willful distortion or sheer ignorance. Europeans were taught for centuries that Muslims worshipped the Prophet Muhammad in the same way that Christians worship Jesus.

This is absolutely not true, since one is not considered a Muslim if he worships anyone or anything besides God the Exalted. Being a Muslim entails complete acceptance and active obedience to the revealed teachings and laws of God the Exalted. Muslim is a person who freely accepts basing his beliefs, values and faith on the will of Almighty God.

Allah is the Universal Creator

The Arabic word '**Allah**' is simply the Arabic word for Almighty God.

It is the exact same word used by Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews. In an Arabic translation of the Bible, '**Allah**' is used where 'God' is used in English (e.g., Arabic-speaking Christians state Jesus is the Son of **Allah** according to their canon belief).

The word '**Allah**' was in use far before the word 'God' ever came into existence, as English is a relatively new language.

The word is quite similar to God in other Semitic languages, such as the Hebrew word '**Elah**'.

The Unbroken Chain of Pure Monotheism

The Pure Monotheism of Islam calls all people to the worship of the God of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and all the other prophets, peace be upon them.

Even though other religious communities have claimed to believe in One God, over time, corrupted ideas entered their beliefs leading them away from pure sincere monotheism:

- Taking prophets and saints as intercessors.
- Believing prophets were manifestations of God, 'God Incarnate', or the 'Son of God'.
- These misconceptions lead to the worship of created beings instead of the Creator, contributing to the idolatrous practice of believing Almighty God may be approached through intermediaries.

The Final Messenger to Humanity

Previous Prophets	Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)
Since the beginning of time, sent each to his own specific nation.	Sent as a mercy to ALL mankind and as the final Messenger to all humanity until the Last Day. Brought more people into pure belief in One God than any other.
Messages were subject to corrupted ideas or altered over time by communities.	God took it upon Himself to protect the message from distortion, being forgotten, or lost.
Followers sometimes need to have mere 'faith' that they existed or that teachings are preserved.	Lived in the full light of history. All sayings and acts were meticulously recorded and collected. Muslims know his existence and teachings to be a fact.

The Perfect Human Example

To guard against falsehoods, he always emphasized that he was only a human-being with the mission of preaching and obeying God's message.

The Messenger of God and His Slave

At the age of forty, he received the revelation from God and spent the remaining portion of his life explaining and living the teachings of Islam.

Through his life and teachings, God made him the perfect example for all people—the exemplary prophet, statesman, military leader, ruler, teacher, neighbor, husband, father, and friend.

The Final and Complete Message

All of God's Messengers preached the message of Islam—i.e. submission to the law of God and the worship of God alone—but Muhammad is the last prophet of Islam who brought the final and complete message which was never to be changed until the Last Day.

