

Pillar 1: Shahadah

This is known as the declaration of faith. Muslims should recite the Shahadah as often as they can.

'Lā 'Ilāha 'Illā Allah, Muḥammadun Rasūl Alla'

This means, 'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and the prophet Mohammad* is his messenger'.



The 5 Pillars of Islam

Muslims believe that there are five basic duties expected of them. It brings them closer to God (Allah) and their community.

Key vocabulary:

- Islam
- Muslim
- Mosque
- Shahadah
- Salah
- Swarm
- Hajj
- Pilgrimage
- Zakat
- Ramadan
- Fasting
- Allah

Pillar 5: Hajj

All Muslims have a duty to make a pilgrimage (journey) to their holy city, Makkah, at least once in their life.

Men who go must wear an ihram which is made up of two sheets that must not be sewn together.



Pillar 2: Salah

This pillar is prayer. Muslims pray five times a day and follow a special ritual to do so. First, they must wash in symbolically clean water. They also use prayer mats and face in the direction of the holy city, Makkah.



Pillar 3: Zakat

This pillar is about looking after other people. Each Muslim gives up a share of their wealth each year to charity in order to provide for those less fortunate.

The word **zakat** means to purify or cleanse. As a person gives away a share of their wealth, they become cleansed from selfishness and greed.

Pillar 4: Swarm

Muslims try to fast (not eat or drink) in the daylight hours during the month of Ramadan. Muslims believe that the prophet Mohammad* started receiving special messages from god during this month.

The fast is to remind Muslims how difficult it is to be poor, hungry and thirsty. It reminds them to thank God for the gift of the Qur'an and to not be greedy.

