

FIRST PRIMER

OF

ISLAM

PREFACE

Education of Muslim children is one of the greatest responsibilities that rests on the shoulders of the elder generation. It is a problem that besets us everywhere in the world — more so in those countries where our children are exposed to a culture basically different from the Muslim culture. The Board of Islamic Publications is anxious to make its humble contribution in meeting this situation so that the younger generation of the *millat* may be well equipped with knowledge of Islamic ideology.

In order to achieve this objective it proposes to produce religious literature for Muslim children and for students of different grades. We are herein making a humble beginning with the presentation of a series of books on Islam, prepared by the Muslim Educational Trust, London for children attending their English medium schools. The language has been kept simple and lucid keeping in view the level of understanding of the children of school going age.

First Primer of Islam aims at providing elementary but basic knowledge of the important principles of Islam. It covers all the essential elements of the faith without burdening the children and without introducing things beyond their level of comprehension. We have also avoided many details which one would like to convey to the children keeping in view their response to the course. The rationale too of the principles enunciated here, has been left out, being far beyond the scope of this elementary book. But in particular cases, parents and teachers may elaborate certain points keeping in view the age and understanding of the student.

It is hoped this primer will be found a useful basis for teaching and discussion. In case, individual needs demand more detailed knowledge, recourse may be had to the following books which experience has shown to be useful for this purpose:

Introduction to Islam by Dr. M. Hamidullah.

Towards Understanding Islam by Syed Abul Ala Maudoodi.

What is Islam by Manzoor Ahmad Naumani.

Useful suggestions by parents or teachers engaged in this interesting and useful work of teaching children may be fruitful in revising the Prime at some later date and will be thankfully received by the publishers.

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Mohammad Yousuf Siddiqui

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IN THE NAME OF
ALLAH
THE MOST GRACIOUS
AND
THE MOST MERCIFUL

The image displays the Arabic word 'Allah' in a highly stylized, bold, black calligraphic font. The letters are thick and fluid, with prominent curves and sharp points. The word is centered within a rectangular frame.

GOD

There is no deity but God.

There is no one worthy of
worship and obedience but

ONE GOD.

God is **ONE** and **ALMIGHTY.**

There is none like Him.

He has no partners.

He begets not nor is He
Begotten.

He is Eternal.

He knows everything.

He sees everything.

He is everywhere.

He is the Creator of the
Universe.

He is the "Lord."

God is Great and Merciful.

He is Kind and Loving.

He has provided us with
everything.

He created us in the best form.

He created the world for us.

He sent Prophets to guide us;

To tell us how to obey Him;

How to live like good human
beings;

And be happy and successful.

In Arabic God is called **ALLAH**.

Allah is the proper name for

ONE and only **ONE GOD**.

ISLAM

The Word Islam means
obedience.

Obedience means to **accept** and
to **follow.**

Islam therefore means acceptance
of **God** and following His
Commands.

God is our Creator and Master.

Success lies in following
the Master.

Therefore, we all must obey His
Commands, both in words
and deeds.

But God has left us free to obey
or not to obey

This is a test.

The real success in this life and
the life after death is in
obeying God.

True peace lies only in following
His Commands.

The word Islam also means
peace.

Therefore Islam means both
obedience to **God** and peace.

It is **obedience** which produces
peace.

Islam seeks peace through
obedience to **God Our**
Creator and Master.

MUSLIM

One who obeys **God** is a **Muslim**.

A Muslim obeys **God** in the way it has been taught by the **Prophets**.

A Muslim believes in

One **GOD**

The **ANGELS**

The **BOOKS OF GOD**

The **PROPHETS**

and

Life **AFTER DEATH**

This belief or faith is known
as IMAN.

One who believes is, therefore,
a MOMIN.

The words Muslim and Momin
convey the same meaning

We are Muslims.

Islam is a great blessing.

It is a great blessing to be
a Muslim.

We are proud of being Muslim.

We thank God on this blessing.

ANGELS or MALAIKA

God created everything

Angels are also created by **God**.

They are not partners with **God**.

Nor are they His sons or
daughters.

They are his servants.

We do not see them.

They obey the Command of
God and carry out His Orders.

The angels brought the message
of **God** to the Prophets.

Angel Jibreel Brought the
message of **God** to Prophet
Muhammad (peace be upon him).

BOOKS OF GOD

God has told us how to live;
 How to obey and worship Him.
 He has sent Guidance for man.

This guidance was given through
 the Prophets.

It was given in the form of Books.

Books given to the Prophets
 have always guided mankind.

The Book given to **Prophet**
Muhammad (peace be upon him)
 is called the Quran.

The Quran tells us the names
 of some of the Books given
 to earlier Prophets.

Mushaf was given to **Prophet**
Ibrahim (Abraham):

Zaboor (Psalms) was given to
Prophet Daood (David).

Taurat (Torah) was given to
Prophet Musa (Moses).

Injeel (Gospel) was given to
Prophet Isa (Jesus) (Peace be upon
them all).

But the Books given to Prophets
before **Muhammad** (peace be upon
him) were not fully preserved.

Some were lost by the people.
The Book of **Prophet Ibrahim**
was lost.

Some were changed by the
people.

The books of Prophets **Daood**,
Musa and **Isa** (peace be upon them)
were changed.

They changed some parts of
them.

They destroyed some parts of them.

They forgot some parts of them.

They added new things in them.
God's words and man's words were mixed up.

His guidance was not available to man in its original form.

Then **God** sent **Muhammad** (peace be upon him)

He gave to him, His Complete Guidance.

The **Quran** is the Book given to **Muhammad** (peace be upon him).

A Muslim believes in all the **Books of God.**

But as the earlier Books are lost or changed he follows only the **Quran.**

THE QURAN

The Quran is the Book of God.
It is a book of Guidance.
Every word of the Quran is a
Word of God.

It is preserved in its original form.
No part of it is lost or changed.
It is as it was revealed to Prophet
Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Muslims learn whole of the
Quran by heart.

It is preserved through memory.
It was written down from the
very beginning
It is also preserved through
writing.

God has given His Protection
to it.

It will always remain preserved.
It is the **Last and Final Book**
sent by **God.**

The **Quran** is a Great Book.

Its style is beautiful.

Its language is sweet.

Its message is full of life.

It tells us how to worship **God**.

It tells us how to live a life of
virtue.

It tells us how to behave in the
Home;

How to treat our parents,
brothers and sisters, relatives
and friends.

It tells us how to behave in
society and deal with other
people.

It tells us how to become good
men and women.

It is a book for the young and
the old;

For men and women.

For men in all parts of the world.

For men in all periods of time.

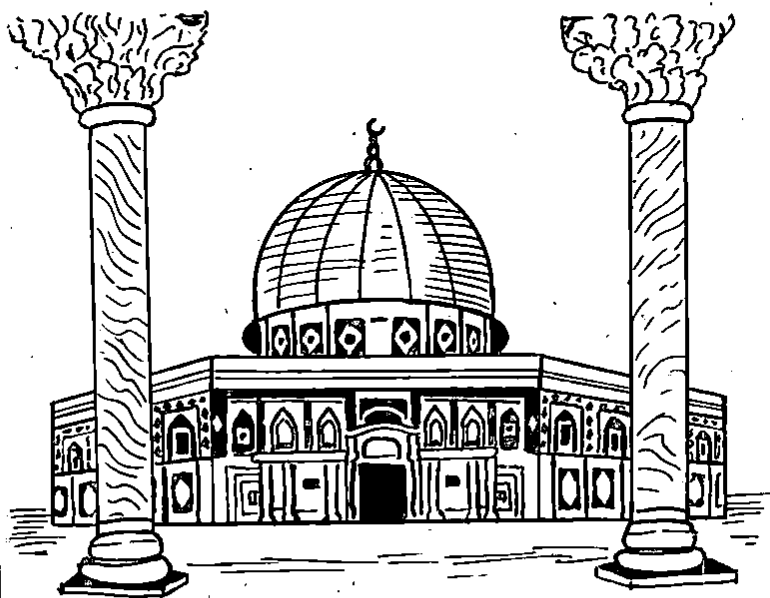
The **Quran** is a Book of Complete Guidance.

It is the real Guidance for the entire Mankind.

A Muslim believes in the **Quran**.

A Muslim reads the **Quran**.

A Muslim tries to follow the **Quran**.



The mosque of the Dome of Rock, Jerusalem; Jordan, Here on the night of Miraj, Muhammad (peace be upon him) led all the Prophets in Prayer.

The Prophets (peace be upon them)

**God sent His Guidance through
the Prophets.**

**He selected His Prophets from
amongst the men.**

They were men of virtue and kindness.

Their lives were truly pure and noble.

They put God's Guidance in practice.

Their lives are true models for mankind.

They are its real leaders and guides.

Man's life on the earth began with Prophethood.

The First man was also the First Prophet.

His name was **Adam** (peace be upon him).

Adam was created by **God**.

We are all children of **Adam**.

A Prophet is not **God**.

He is human like us.

None of the Prophets said he was **God**.

A Prophet receives guidance from **God**.

He obeys **God** and teaches other to obey Him.

Some Prophets received Books from **God**.

Others followed the books revealed to the Prophet before them.

A Prophet who received a Book is called **Rasool** (Messenger).

A Prophet who was not given a New Book is called **Nabi** (Prophet).

God sent Prophets to all people
at different times.

Some of the well-known
Prophets were:

NOOH (Noah), **IBRAHIM** (Abraham)

ISHAQUE (Isaac), **ISMAIL** (Ishmael)

YAKUB (Jacob), **YUSUF** (Joseph)

MUSA (Moses), **ESA** (Jesus)

(Peace be upon them all)

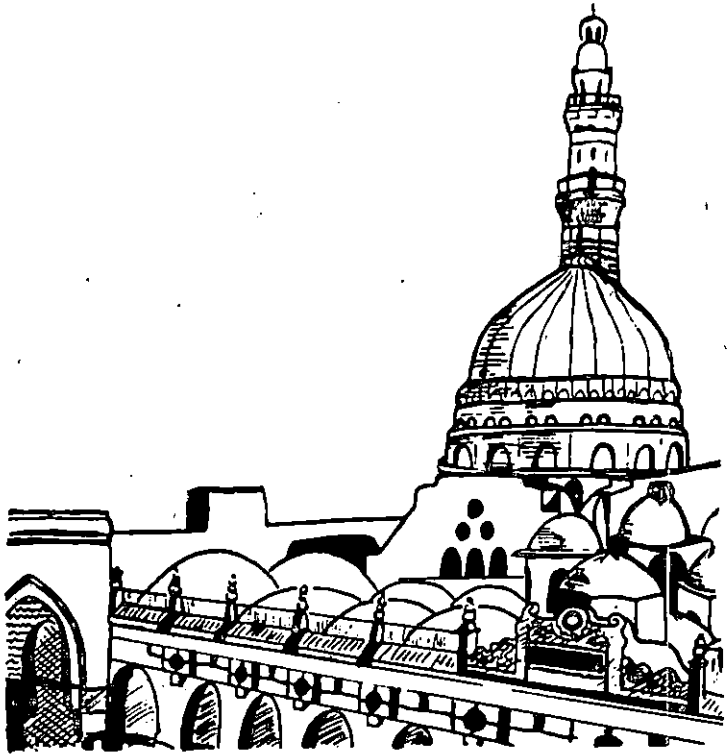
Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the
Last Prophet.

The Prophets worshipped **God**
and taught us to worship
only **God**.

They showed us the way to the
obedience of **God**.

A Muslim believes in all the
Prophets.

He loves and respects all Prophets
but does not worship them.



Prophet's Mosque, MADINA

**Muhammad (peace be upon him)
the Last Prophet**

When the message of God was
changed and forgotten;

Truth was mixed with falsehood;

God sent another Prophet.

Muhammad (peace be upon him)
is the Last Prophet.

He brought Complete Guidance.

He separated Truth from
falsehood.

He showed the Right Path for all
times to come.

He came as a blessing unto
Mankind;

Their true guide and leader.

The Guidance he brought is
preserved in its original form.

His life-example is available in all
its rich details.

He is the Tower of Light, which
shall shine for ever.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was
born in **Makkah** 571
years After Prophet Jesus.

He lived for 63 years.

He received **God's** word when he
was forty.

For 23 years he preached the
message of Truth.

He sacrificed everything in the
cause of Islam.

He suffered so that Truth would
prevail;

So that men might live in
obedience to **God.**

So that men might live in peace.

He is our greatest benefactor.

The benefactor of mankind.

He showed her the **Right Path.**

He taught love and brotherhood.

He told his followers to be
kind and polite.

He taught them to love children
and respect elders.

He asked them to help one
another.

He did not believe only in
preaching;

He practised what he preached.

He also stopped bad people from
doing harm to others.

He asked Muslims to be always
truthful.

He established **Truth and Justice**.

He established the **Islamic Society**.

The message brought by him is
final.

There is no Prophet after
Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Akhirah
The Life After Death

The Prophets have shown us the
path of obedience, peace and
happiness.

But we are free to follow the
Prophets or Satan.

The ways of Satan are the ways
of evil.

Man's life on this earth is limited.
One day, all life will come to an
end.

Then there will be Day of
Judgement.

Every man will be judged.

Those who followed the Prophets and obeyed **God** would be sent to **Paradise**.

Those who disobeyed **God** and followed the Satan would go to Hell.

The life in **Paradise** will be a life of peace and happiness.

It will never end.

Those who go to **Hell** will also live there for ever.

Life in **Hell** will be all misery and punishment.

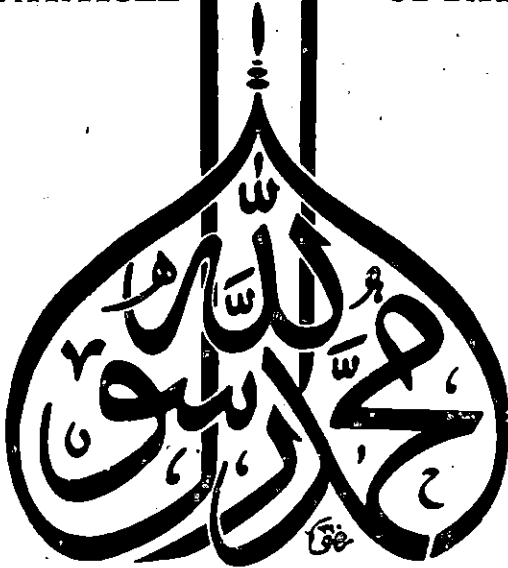
Belief in Life-After-Death is, therefore, part of a Muslim's **Iman**.

May **God** protect us from **Hell** and reward us with His Pleasure and **Paradise** (Ameen).

الله اعلى

THE ARTICLE

OF FAITH



KALIMAH

THE ARTICLE OF FAITH

A Muslim expresses his *Iman* in the following words:

There is no deity but *God*

and Muhammad is the
Messenger of God.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

This is called **Kalimah** or Article
of Faith.

This is the main Article of Faith.

There are other **Kalimas** as well.

All these **Kalimas** express
important parts of our belief.

Some are given below:

The Second Kalimah or Kalimiah-tush-Shahadah

I bear witness to the fact

that there is no deity
but Allah. He is One and

there is no partner
with Him; and I bear
witness that

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Muhammad is His

servant and Messenger.

The Third Kalimah or Kalimah-tut-Tamjid

All glory and praise be to
 God; there is no deity but God;
 God is great there is no power
 and no strength except in God,
 Most High, Most Merciful.

The Fourth Kalimah or-Kalimah-tut-Tauhid

There is no deity but God; He is
 One and there is
 no partner with Him; His is the
 Kingdom and to Him is all
 praise; He gives life and He takes
 life; All good is in His Hands;
 and He has power over all
 things.