

Removing the Veil: Christianity and Islam



St. Catherine of Siena
06 February 2016

The First War on Terror

“It was written in their Koran, that all nations which had not acknowledged the Prophet were sinners, whom it was the right and duty of the faithful to plunder and enslave; and that every mussulman who was slain in this warfare was sure to go to paradise. He said, also, that the man who was the first to board a vessel had one slave over and above his share, and that when they sprang to the deck of an enemy's ship, every sailor held a dagger in each hand and a third in his mouth; which usually struck such terror into the foe that they cried out for quarter at once.”

Thomas Jefferson Letter to John Jay, 1786



The Catechism on Islam

“The Church's relationship with the Muslims. ‘The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day.’”

CCC 841

A Sainly Perspective

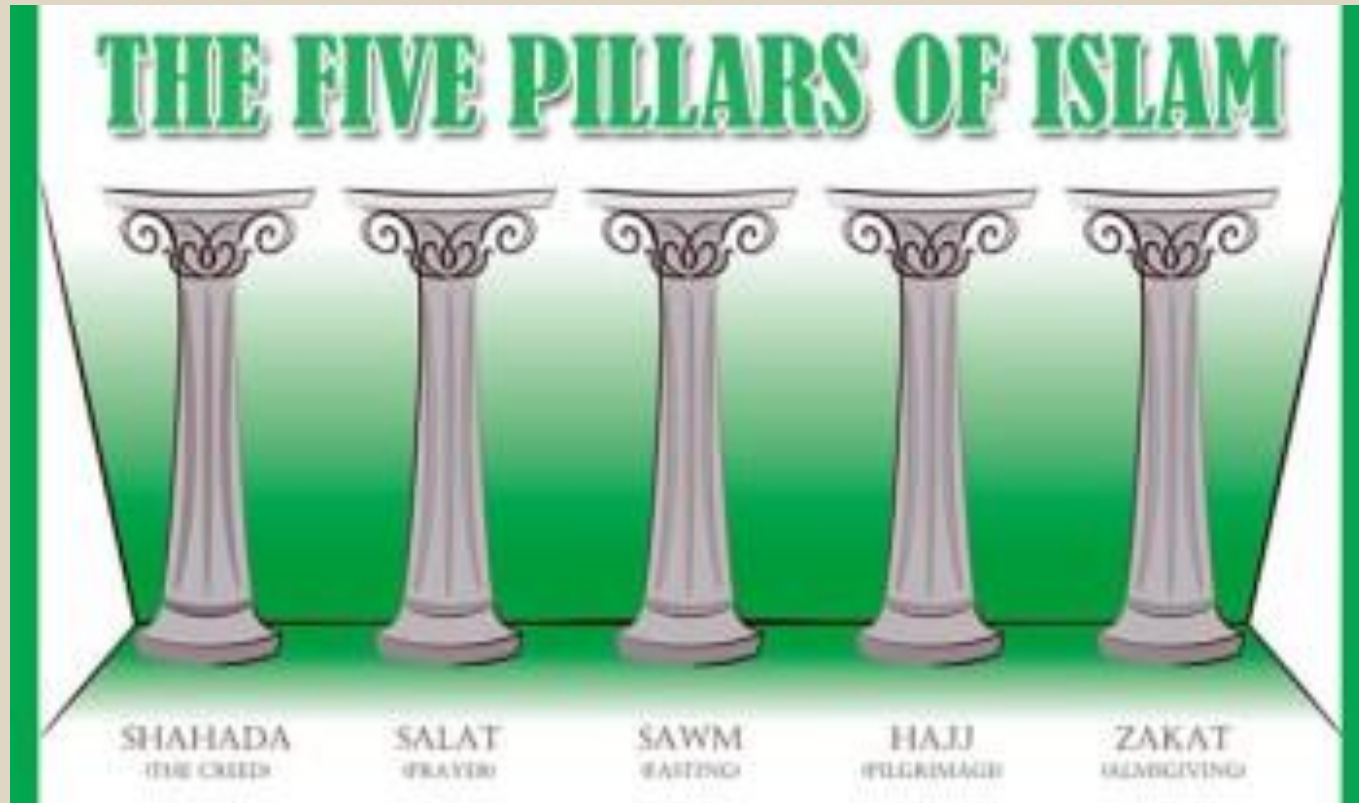
“Some of the most beautiful names in the human language are given to the God of the Koran, but He is ultimately a God outside of the world, a God who is only Majesty, never Emmanuel, God with us. Islam is not a religion of redemption. There is no room for the Cross and the Resurrection. Jesus is mentioned, but only as a prophet who prepares for the last prophet, Muhammad. There is also mention of Mary, His Virgin Mother, but the tragedy of redemption is completely absent. *For this reason not only the theology but also the anthropology of Islam is very distant from Christianity.*”

Pope St. John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*

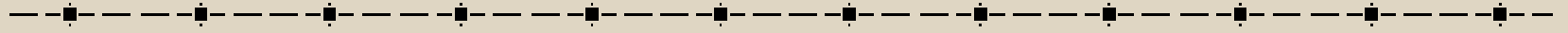
Foundational Question

**Is a thing good because God commands it,
or does God command a thing because it is
good?**

Five Pillars of Islam



Shahada



“There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet”



**“...and Muhammad is his
prophet”**

**“Verily in the Messenger of God you have a
good example for him who looks to God
and the last Day, and remembers God
much.”**

Sura 33:21

Koran

“It is He, Who has revealed to you (O Muhammad) the Scripture wherein are definite revelations. They are the substance of the Book. and others (which are) indefinite.”

Sura 3:7

“And the Word Became a Book”

“Whoever knows the Old and New Testament and then reads the Koran, clearly sees the process by which it completely reduces Divine Revelation. It is impossible not to note the movement away from what God said about Himself, first in the Old Testament through the Prophets, and then finally in the New Testament through His Son. In Islam all the richness of God’s self-revelation, which constitutes the heritage of the Old and New Testaments, has definitely been set aside.”

Pope St. John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*

“There is no god but Allah...”

“The Jews and Christians say: We are sons of God and His loved ones. Say: Why then does He punish you or your sins? Nay, you are but mortals of His creating. He forgives whom He wills, and punishes whom He wills. God's is the supreme power of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, and to Him is the journeying.”

Sura 5:18



Man and Allah

“Say: He is God, the One! God, the eternally Besought of all! He begets not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable to Him.”

Sura 112:1-4



Abrogation

“Such of Our revelations as We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, we bring (in place) one better or the like thereof. Know you not that God is Able to do all things?”

Sura 2:106

Taqiyya

“Let not the believers take for friends or helpers unbelievers rather than believers. If any do that, in nothing will there be help from Allah; except by way of precaution, that ye may guard yourselves from them.”

Sura 3:28

Salat, Sawn, Hajj

“Nevertheless, the religiosity of Muslims deserves respect. It is impossible not to admire for example their fidelity to prayer. The image of believers in Allah who, without caring about time or place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all those who invoke the true God, in particular for those Christians who, having deserted their magnificent cathedrals, pray only a little or not at all.”

Pope St. John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*

Zakat

“The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of God, and (for) the wayfarers; a duty imposed by God. God is Knower, Wise.”

Sura 9:60

“Never be a helper to the unbelievers.”

Sura 28:86

Love Your Neighbor?

“Women shall with justice have rights similar to those exercised against them, although men have a status above women”

Sura 2:228

Islam and Unbelievers

“Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive) and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush. But if they repent and establish worship and pay the poor-due, then leave their way free. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.”

Sura 9:5

“Fight against such of those who have been given the Scripture and believe not in God nor the Last Day, and forbid not that which God has forbidden by His Messenger, and follow not the religion of truth, until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low.”

Sura 9:29

Is Islam a Religion of Peace?

“Fight in the way of God against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Lo! God loves not aggressors. And slay them wherever you find them and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter.”

Sura 2:190-193

Jihad—A Sixth Pillar?

“Jihad is the means of spreading the Islamic call and of preserving the sacred principles of Islam. This is another religious duty imposed by Allah on the Muslim, just as He imposed fasting, prayer, pilgrimage, alms, and the doing of good and abandoning of evil. He has imposed Jihad upon them, and entrusted them with it... ‘Go forth, light armed and heavy armed, and strive hard with your wealth and your lives in the way of Allah! That is best for you if you but knew’ (Sura 9:41.”

Hassan al Banna, Founder of the Muslim Brotherhood

Jihad

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- ◆ **Greater Jihad**—the struggle of the individual Muslim to apply the tenets of Islam in daily life and live obediently
 - ◆ **Lesser Jihad**—involves fighting Allah’s enemies to bring about the reign of Islam—many forms besides just combat
 - **Migration to the infidels’ land**
 - **Oral Jihad**—Apologetics and Preaching
 - **Written Jihad**
 - **Construction in Jihad**—building Mosques and Islamic schools in non-Muslim lands
 - **Monetary support**—establishing banks and businesses, leveling jizya like taxes, oil, material support to the families of martyrs

