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He called, I came
Came To ISLAM

Islamic Learning Guide
for New Reverts
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This book has common questions asked by new Revert Muslims, some even by disbelievers. This book is not a comprehensive guide upon Islam. It simply tries to answer a few common basic questions. For a more comprehensive guide, please read the 100 page material of:

"RED Guide of ISLAM for Reverts at www.IsaCalling.com "

You are free to share this book, with the limitation that you do not edit it in any way.

An updated copy might be available at <http://www.IsaCalling.com>

Q: What is Islam?

A: The word Islam means "Surrender". In terms of religion, "Surrender to the will of one true GOD"

In other words, believing the following:

There is just one true GOD, and he is the only one worthy of worship

Whatever happens, is the will of GOD

Whatever does not happen, is also the will of the GOD

My success are his glory,

my failures are lessons from GOD.

and that GOD is always watching me, and everything I do is seen by him.

Q: Who is Allah?

A: The word Allah means GOD in arabic language. This is not the name of GOD, its a reference to GOD. Names of GOD are others, 99 of those mentioned in my other book, "Red Guide of Islam for Reverts"

Some of the names mentioned in the book are:

Al-Awwal (The beginning)

Al-Akhir (The End)

Al-Ghaniyy (The self sustained)

Al-Malik (The Master)

Ar-Rehmaan (The most compassionate)

Ar-Raheem (The most merciful)

Its available here: <http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Info>

Q: Is Islam difficult to follow?

A: Absolutely not. Anyone who tells you that Islam is difficult, is going against the word of GOD himself, and also against what prophet Mohammad preached.

The Messenger of Allah, sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:

"Religion is very easy, and whoever overburdens himself in his religion will not be able to continue in that way.

So you should not be extremists, but try to be near to perfection, and receive the good tidings that you will be rewarded."

(In the book of Bukhari 1:2:38)

Quran 2:185 http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/002

The month of Ramazan is that in which the Quran was revealed,

a guidance to men and clear proofs of the guidance and the distinction;

therefore whoever of you is present in the month, he shall fast therein, and whoever is sick or upon a journey,

then a number of other days;

Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty,

and that you should complete the number and that you should exalt the greatness of Allah,

for His having guided you and that you may give thanks.

Both Allah and prophet, did not want the religion to be a hardship on the mankind. They wanted things to be made as easy as possible.

The only requirement is to follow cleanliness, and be sincere in thanking GOD for what he gave us out of his mercy. He is the Ar-Raheem!

Q: Who was prophet Mohammad?

A: Mohammad was the messenger of GOD who brought the message of Islam, sent by GOD, for entire mankind.

He always taught people to worship just one true GOD, forbade people from worshipping idols, forbade from worshipping humans including himself.

Islam is probably the only religion in entire world, where the prophet who brought the message of GOD, preached it, is not worshipped!

All other major religions corrupted their own religion by going against the preachings of their prophets, and started worshipping idols of their own prophets...

Followers of these other religions have started believing that their prophet was the GOD himself. It was probably for this reason that a final prophet was sent to earth, with a final message of GOD, message for the people to return back to the original religion. The religion of Abraham!

Prophet Mohammad always said that he is not bringing a new religion into existence. He is only purifying what has become corrupted, and this is the same religion that GOD had blessed humans with. Back in days of Adam and Abraham it was known with a different name of course...

Prophet Mohammad always preached that prophet too is just a slave of GOD. In the last prayer session he lead, he said to Muslims:

One slave out of you all has been chosen by Allah, and will soon find a place in paradise.

Upon hearing this, everyone started looking at each other in joy, but the best friend of prophet, Abu Bakar had tears in his eyes, for he knew that the prophet was talking about himself, and that he will leave his body soon.

Q: Was prophet Mohammad the only prophet sent by GOD?

A: Not at all. 25 prophets are mentioned in Quran alone, including Adam, Abraham, Joseph, Izzac, Moses, Jesus, John, and of course prophet Mohammad.

Prophet Mohammad once said that there GOD has sent over 100,000 prophets in this world.

Q: What does Islam say about Jesus?

A: Islam agrees that Jesus was born of a miraculous birth, and by the will of GOD, was able to perform miracles like healing people by the touch of his hand.

Remember, Jesus always said: Your own faith in GOD has healed you (not me)

Islam also says that people who crusified Jesus, only crusified his body, and not the spirit of Jesus.

Spirit of Jesus was taken back into heavens before crusification.

Islam also tells us that Jesus will return back to earth, and will follow the religion that GOD has blessed mankind with.

Prophet has also mentioned that he'll be seen descending down from heavens, along with his angels, and will offer prayers along with a group of followers of Islam, in the method of Islam. This could simply mean one thing only. At some point in his life, Jesus will follow Islam, and will recognize it as the religion chosen by GOD for mankind.

Last verse of Quran revealed upon prophet Mohammad also confirmed that Islam is the religion that GOD has perfected for mankind.

" This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..."

Q: What are basic duties of a Muslim?

A: There are 5 basic duties of every muslim. These are known as 5 pillars of Islam.

Details of this are in the "Red guide of Islam for Reverts"

1. Shahada

This is belief in one true GOD, and believing that he is the only one worthy of worship, and that prophet was his messenger.

2. Salat, also known as Namaaz or prayer

These are the daily 5 prayers that each Muslim must offer. This is the second most important pillar of Islam.

3. Fasting

Fasting is not just limited to control of food and water, but done to attain a higher level of spirituality

This is why fasting is incomplete if you keep telling lies, keep getting involved in fights (physical or verbal), and keep thinking evil things about others.

People with medical conditions, pregnant women, breast feeding mothers, women in periodic cycles etc are all given the liberty to "not practice" control of food and water intake during fasting.

They should all however practice other parts of the fast like controlling sins of tongue, body and mind.

Remember, Allah wants things easy for you, not difficult... He wants your sincerity, not hardship.

In addition to this fasting men and women should also read Quran, offer more prayers than daily 5, and try to help others.

Fast is not considered complete if it beats the purpose of attaining higher spirituality.

This is also true for the fast of Ramadan. Remember, Quran was revealed in the month of Ramadan, and the month is considered blessed in terms of spirituality. Maximum use must be made of this month to attain a higher level of devotion towards Allah.

Methods of doing so are:

a. Fasting. Not just control of food and water, but also controlling yourself from committing sins.

Sins of tongue, body and mind.

b. Reading and learning verses of Quran

c. Offering more prayers than daily 5.

d. Helping others, financially and physically.

4. Alms and Charity

Its the duty of all able muslims to help others in need. Those who are poor, those who are physically disabled, should be helped by muslims. And this is a duty of a Muslim, not just an act of kindness.

This is the command of Allah for Muslims, to help others in need.

Help can be financial, or physical. Depends on what you are capable of.

5. pilgrimage

This is known as Hajj, and all able Muslims must take this 5 day journey at least once a year.

Details about this are in the "Red Guide of Islam for Reverts", under the headings:

1. 5 Pillars of Islam, and also under

2. History of Islam

History of Islam covers why we are doing all these things. If you don't know why you are doing something, then either you will not do it with whole heart, or you will do it as a chore without sincerity.

Sometimes, you will not get a thanks in return for what you did, but don't worry, Allah knows:

English Quran verse, 99:6

On that (judgement) day men shall come forth in sundry bodies that they may be shown their works.

English Quran verse, 99:7

So. he who has done an atom's weight of good shall see it

English Quran verse, 99:8

And he who has done an atom's weight of evil shall see it.

http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/099

English Quran verse, 2:271

If you give alms openly, it is well, and if you hide it and give it to the poor, it is better for you; and this will do away with some of your evil deeds; and Allah is aware of what you do.

http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/002

Q. Why does Islam allow polygamy?

A: Polygamy is where a man is allowed to have more than one wife. However, in the same verse of Quran that allowed polygamy also limited polygamy.

The limitation is that a man is only allowed to have more than one wife if he can do justice to each wife. Provide them equally, financially and in terms of his time as well.

Prophet Mohammad used to stay in the house of one wife for a day, and in the house of the other the next day and so on, so that each wife can have her full share of time with him.

When he got gifts, he did not favour one wife over the other. He distributed the gifts amongst each equally. If there was just one item in gift, which could not be divided, then he gave it to his grand daughter and not to any of his wives.

Its not hidden that prophet loved his Aisha the most, and also told her that she would accompany him in heavens.

During his last days, he went to the house of the wife whose turn it was, but knowing his love for Aisha, all his wives sacrificed their days with him.

It was only when they sacrificed their days, did prophet go to the house of Aisha, and spent the last of his days in her house, where she took care of him.

If a man cannot practice that kind of equality, then according to Quran, he must have only one wife, else he is a sinner.

The verses that set conditions for multiple marriages are of chapter 4, verses 1-4. They say:

Allah created 2 humans from one soul, and from these he created many. Be careful of your relationships with each other, Allah watches you. Be fair to orphans, and do not steal from their wealth and do not exchange a portion of their good wealth with something worthless of your wealth, as this is a sin. And if you fear that you are being unjust to orphans, then marry such women (such orphan women) 2,3,4... But if you think you cannot be fair to many women, then marry only one and be fair to her. Otherwise its better to marry the women you possess as slaves. Then when you have given the women their share of wealth as dowry, and she chooses to return some of it back to you, then you are free to consume the wealth as your own.

Read verses here: http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/4

Orphan women are women with no father, no husband (divorced or widowed), no caretaker, or no mahrams.

Q: Does Islam degrade woman and require them to wear Burkha or Hijab?

A: Islam does not degrade women. On the other hand, Islam was the first and only religion which gave rights to women. Rights equal to that of a man.

Islam was the first religion which gave financial rights to a woman, acknowledged her right on the property of her father, and also gave her the right to divorce.

Prophet Mohammad in his last sermon specifically mentioned this that all are equal under Islam. Slave is no less than his keeper, and keeper is no more than his slave, man is no more than a woman, and woman is no more than a man. They are all equal and only their piousness differentiates them.

Under Islam, its not just the woman who is asked to cover her body, but men are also instructed to do so. Both men and woman are required to cover their entire body between the 2 elbows, and between their knees and neck.

There was only one modification to this for woman, which was:

Woman should cover their body between ankles and neck, and between the two wrists of their hands.

So instead of elbow to elbow, it was wrist to wrist, and instead of neck to knees, it was neck to ankles, for women.

I don't know how Burkha came into existence. It was never seen when prophet Mohammad preached Islam, or even many years after that...

The choice of covering other body parts, that are showing from outside these mentioned above, is her own.

Unfortunately, different sects of Islam have forced woman to cover entire body using Burkhas, etc, which was never a requirement in the original teachings of Islam.

It depends on the sect you are following, and the community you are residing in.

Please remember that prophet Mohammad himself said that between the time of his leaving till judgement day (last hour), there would be 73 sects of Islam, and only one of these sects would deserve heavens. Rest 72 are going to hell.

So its important to follow the sect which is closest to original Islam, and stay away from sects which have modified Islam and have reduced it to just religious chores.

Read the Red Guide of Islam for details on which sect to follow and which to avoid.

Q: Is Islam the religion of sword?

A: This is probably the biggest lie spread about Islam by disbelievers.

When prophet Mohammad preached Islam in Mecca, the authority of Mecca, the Kureshe, got annoyed. They tortured him, insulted him, tortured his followers. They did this to the point where prophet Mohammad and his followers had to leave Mecca, and find refuge in Madina.

However, even then, the Kureshe kept on trying to kill prophet Mohammad, kill his followers. To defend Madina, prophet, upon orders from GOD, organized an army, with the purpose of defending Madina.

Kureshe even barred prophet Mohammad and his followers from performing pilgrimage at the holy Kabah. At this, prophet Mohammad led his army towards Mecca. When this news reached Kureshe,, they sent a deligate to negotiate with prophet Mohammad, and even here prophet Mohammad promised that the army will not attack who do not wish to fight, and will stay inside their houses.

Kureshe ultimately ended up surrendering before the large number of the army of prophet Mohammad. Upon entering Mecca, prophet Mohammad kept his word, and people were surprised at his truthfulness, and at his peaceful attitude towards the same people who had insulted him and his followers.

Even the followers of Islam, who were literally beaten and stoned by these same people just a few years back, were behaving kindly to them.

It was this attitude that won the hearts of the people and they accepted prophet Mohammad as a true messenger of GOD, which is what they refused to earlier.

This was when thousands of people came to prophet Mohammad and accepted Islam, as he sat outside the city of Mecca along with his armies.

Most of these people were who wanted to accept Islam, but feared Kureshe. Now that Kureshe had surrendered,, these people can now gather the courage to do what they themselves wanted to do.

Q: Does Islam teach terrorism?

A: Islam has nothing to do with terrorism. Those terrorist incidents you know about were politically motivated.

When country "A" goes and bombs another country "M", kills the children of country "M" in their sleeps, drags their woman out of their house and sexually abuse them, and when people from country "M" retaliate, then country "A" says people of Islam are terrorists...

Terrorism has nothing to do with Islam.

There are more criminals in their own country, of their own religion, than there are terrorists in the world. Do you see me asking if their religion is teaching crime?

NO. Because I know that no religion teaches crime or killing innocent people.

Those incidents where innocent people lost their lives, were unfortunate, are condemned, and every sane person, of any religion agrees that they should not have happened.

Q: What is Jihaad?

A: Purest form of Jihaad is the battle of one person with his own self. Battle between evil within and good within.

When the good within a person keeps fighting against the evil within, then its Jihaad of that person.

Doesn't matter if the person is able to completely conquer the evil within or not. Even trying to do this brings peace of mind, and trying to walk on the right path brings Allah's forgiveness.

Q: Is it compulsory for muslims to eat non-vegetarian food?

A: Not at all. Your food choices are your own, except for those things which are not considered good to eat as mentioned in Quran.

If you want to be a complete vegetarian and you want to follow Islam, then Islam has no restrictions on you for being a vegetarian.

Q: Can Muslims consume alcohol and other addictive products like drugs?

A: Absolutely not. Islam specifically mentions restrictions on alcohol, and it is a reference to any other addictive products like drugs as well. Its not just limited to alcohol.

Quran is a book for wise and those with understanding. Its not for fools who can follow it word for word and commit any other sin just because it is not specifically mentioned in Quran.

Q: Why does Islam prohibit pork?

A: Pork is a source of various kinds of diseases, and should be avoided anyways. Its believed that Julius Caesar suffered from a disease which was common amongst pork eaters. There are various kinds of parasites which reside in a pork's flesh, and its blood.

In a research project undertaken in America, it was found that out of 24 people suffering from Trichura Tichurasis, 22 had cooked the pork very well. This means that not all parasites present in pork die at cooking temperatures.

Worms present in pork meat can enter your blood stream via pork meat in food, and then reproduce and grow. These worms can make a person blind, chew on a person's brain and kill the person.

In addition to this, pork meat is high in fats and low in muscle building protein. Eating pork can raise cholesterol levels and eventually become the reason for heart diseases.

Q: What is Kafir?

A: Kafir is a word derived from the word Kaff, meaning one who rejects. Kafirs are those who have rejected the message of Allah.

You can call them disbelievers, in english, doesn't matter. Meaning is the same.

Q: What is Kabah?

A: Kabah is the holy mosque of Muslims. Its considered as a replica of the house of angels in heavens. Kabah was constructed by prophet Abraham (Ibrahim), upon command of GOD.

When prophet Mohammad was taken to heavens by angels, he saw prophet Ibrahim leaning to the house of angels, which looked like Kabah itself.

Its this place which muslims visit during their pilgrimage, lesser or higher pilgrimage both.

Q: What is Quran?

A: Quran is the book which is compiled of revelations that came upon prophet Mohammad.

Its considered as the word of GOD.

Q: How did prophet Mohammad get these revelations?

A: These revelations came upon prophet Mohammad in 2 different ways.

1. Revelations which angel Gabriel brought upon him by descending upon prophet Mohammad.

These revelations were very hard for him, as he himself mentioned while answering a question.

2. Revelations that angel Gabriel brought upon him in a human form.

For these revelations prophet would see angel Gabriel in a human form, who would then recite the revelation, which prophet memorized and recited later.

Please note that Quran too has 2 types of commands from GOD.

1. Commands which were sent upon the mankind by the will of GOD.

2. Commands which were sent upon mankind as answers to questions asked by prophet Mohammad.

These second type of commands were time specific, community specific. For example, commands related to slavery, and how to treat slaves.

Slavery got abolished later, and GOD knew it would, because nothing happens without the will of GOD.

One can say that rules of slavery can be applied to servants, but I say they cannot be. Servants are different. Servants are free people, slaves were not.

Again, Quran is a book for wise and for men of understanding. Its not for fools who could follow it word for word and use it as an excuse to commit sins, as already mentioned in the question about alcohol consumption.

Q: Do Muslims hate others who do not follow their religion?

A: Absolutely not. Its the command of Quran not to do so.

English Quran verse, 60:8

Allah does not forbid you respecting those who have not made war against you on account of religion, and have not driven you forth from your homes,

that you show them kindness and deal with them justly;

surely Allah loves the doers of justice.

http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/060

Q: How does one accept Islam?

A: Your belief in one true GOD, and believing that prophet was a messenger sent by him, are enough to accept Islam.

Acceptance of Islam is something between you and GOD. Its not something that needs declaration.

GOD holds you accountable for your word and your truthfulness. So say these words to become a Muslim:

"I believe that there is only one true GOD,
and he is the most compassionate, and the most merciful,
and he is my master, and the Master of the judgement day,
and he is the one I worship and praise,
and he is the one I ask for help, protection and guidance,

and prophets are messengers and slaves of the one true GOD."

Shorter version of this is:

"There is only one true GOD, and prophets are his messengers."

The shorter version was used by prophet Mohammad, and is still used by people to accept Islam.

The longer was revealed as a "Surah" of Quran by the angel Gabriel, the first Surah, and is read 5 times daily, once in each of the daily 5 prayers.

Q: What do I do after accepting Islam?

A: You learn the proper way of praying under Islamic guidance.

I'd like to point out one thing here.

Don't just by heart Arabic words that you do not understand.

Don't just repeat those words in a prayer.

Learn the meaning of those words.

By praying you are not doing something for Allah. You are doing it for yourself. You are doing it so that you can please Allah, and so that you can get his blessings.

Do it with sincerity, with complete understanding of what you are saying, and mean what you are saying to him.

Remember, GOD is always watching you. Realising this is called spirituality.

After this, you can proceed onto other duties of Islam which Allah has commanded for you. Duties like:

1. Praying daily
2. Fasting in the holy month, fast of control of sins, not just food.
3. Helping others by Alms and charity
4. Visiting Kabah, at least once in this life.

And please do not forget, one of the most important duty, reading and learning Quran.

Its the holy book of Islam, which has commands from GOD, for you and I to follow.

You can read "50 verses of Quran for today" at homepage of <http://www.IsaCalling.com>

Just 50 lines a day, and you'd have read Quran in just 4 months time!

You read 100 times more than that, just by browsing Twitter and Facebook, each day...

Q: Do I need to change my name after I accept Islam?

A: Not at all. There is no need to change your name.

Some people do take up an Islamic name officially, some others add an Islamic middle or last name, and some do not do any change.

No problem with any of those choices. Its completely your choice.

My name is Sumit Kumar, which is a hindu identity name.

However, people who guided me after I accepted Islam gave an Islamic name to me, which is AlMahi Timus, on the lines of Timur Khan.

Q: Do I need a certificate of acceptance of Islam?

A: No, you don't. However, I'm not aware of travel laws in your country, or where you wish to travel to, so for that purposes you might or might not need a certificate.

I was told by an Indonesian person that a certificate of acceptance of Islam would be needed if I wished to marry someone from Indonesia, and my local mosque will provide it to me.

But that is all I know about this...

Q: Is circumcision a must after accepting Islam?

A: Absolutely not. There are no evidences of this in Quran. However, some medical practitioners and scholars have highlighted hygenic benefits of doing so.

Q: What is Wudu?

A: Its the process of cleaning oneself before offering prayers. Rinsing mouth, washing face, hands, legs, ears. The idea behind Wudu is to be clean before offering prayers.

Remember, GOD watches everything. When you offer prayers, he sees. Keep yourself clean when presenting yourself before him...

Q: What is Zakat, and who can it be given to?

A: Zakat is the process of giving a part of one's own wealth to someone in need.

Its the duty of every Muslim to give 2.5% of their annual income to someone in need.

You may also give it to organizations who are collecting Zakat, and then using it properly.

Zakat can be given in the form of cash money, in gold, in silver, or even in crops. Basically anything of value.

Q: Is earning interest on money banned in Islam?

A: Yes, earning interest on money lended is banned in Islam. The idea being that it leads to unjust behaviour on the part of the lender, and pressurises the borrower. Back then there was a compounded system of interest imposed by the lender, in which the amount of interest "eventually" exceeded the principle amount. Even if the borrower kept on paying the original amount, still he wouldn't be able to pay off his debts his entire life, simply because the interest amount has accumulated to the point where its impossible to repay it.

As a result, people ended up giving their children as slaves to the cruel lenders, and sometimes worse unspeakable things happened.

In an answer to prophet Mohammad, GOD sent a revelation, which put an end to imposing interest on borrowers. Prophet Mohammad immediately announced that he is waving off all interest which were imposed by his uncles, and freed all the people from the load of interest.

It was that day when earning interest became a Haram practice for muslims. Haram simply means an act of sin. The opposite of Haram is Halal. Halal means its allowed, and is not a sin.

Q: Do I have to learn Arabic to read Quran?

A: No. You can read Quran in different languages.

Here are a couple of downloads in PDF format:

<http://www.IsaCalling.com/downloads>

And here is an Simple English translation of Quran:

http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_English/

And here's one in English, but in Shakespeare like English:

http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Quran_Pickthall/

Note: Audio of Quran in various languages are also available on the same links above.

Available audio at the time of writing this are:

English only, Arabic with English translation, Arabic with Urdu & Hindi translation, and purely Arabic.

You can listen to the chapter you are on, instead of reading it.

And if you find something difficult, feel free to ask in the Discussion boards

Q: What is Tawheed?

A: A complete submission of one's will before the will of GOD is Tawheed.

Tawheed has 3 parts, they are:

1. Knowing, and not just believing, that GOD is the one who created everything, and he watches everything, and he is the one who judges our sins and good.
2. Knowing, and not just believing, that GOD is the only one worthy of worship
3. Knowing and understanding different names of GOD, and worshipping GOD with appropriate names.

99 of these names are mentioned in Quran, and they are all mentioned and explained in the "Red Guide of Islam for Reverts"

Each name has a different meaning, and depicts a characteristic of GOD. For example:

Al-Malik: The ultimate Master

2. Al-Awwal: The beginning

3. Al-Akhir: The End

4. Ar-Rehmaan: The most compassionate

5. Ar-Raheem: The most merciful

Remember, he is always watching you. Doesn't matter what you do, he sees!

For a better understanding of Islam, read the "Red Guide of Islam for Reverts"

The book answers questions of reverts in detail.

It also explains what is to be done, and more importantly, why it is to be done.

Some important things in the "RED Guide of ISLAM for Reverts" are:

99 names of Allah are mentioned in Quran, and which prophets are recognized in Quran

History of Islam

Last sermon of prophet Mohammad, the gist of Islam

Istikhara prayer to ask Allah's guidance and blessings in any matter

But this is not all. There are details of Salat, its proper way, proper way of fasting during Ramadan, and lot more

Its available here:

<http://www.IsaCalling.com/read/Info>

