

# The Five Pillars of Islám

## ❖ I. The Testimony of Faith- (شهادة-[Shahádah](#))

The Testimony of Faith is the acknowledgment of the Power of God to affect His creation through His intimate involvement and intervention. The Shahádah involves testifying to the Uniqueness of God/Oneness of God called Tawhíd (توحيد). Tawhíd refers to the Unity and Independence of God from all things. Another aspect of the Shahádah is testifying about the One Whom God has chosen as the recipient of His Revelation/Manifestation/Appearance. Belief in an Abstract God yet testifying to His intimate involvement and intervention predicates an interaction through a synonymously chosen Figure to be the revealer and enabler of His will and purpose for His creation. This recipient of the Revelation of God or Prophet of God is inspired within his soul (نفس-[nafs](#)) by the Spirit (روح-[rúh](#)) to speak and act on behalf of God to the body (بشر-[Bashar](#)) of humanity. When this occurs the Heavenly Realm influences the Psychological Realm which in turn effects the Elemental Realm. As this occurs certain personages awaken who are searching for the influence of God in the world and gather around this Messenger of God. They acknowledge the Power of God and the Signs/Verses of God revealed from this Messenger. Through their Testimony the Religion of God is established and His influence permeates throughout the world. The Testimony of Faith has an effect on the individual in all three levels of existence through the power of the thought and effort it takes to make such a decision for oneself.

## ❖ II. The Performance of Prayer- (صلاة-Saláh)

Şaláh is the act of performing the Obligatory Prayer prescribed by the Manifestation of God. Each Messenger of God has prescribed certain Prayers to be recited by those who have made the Shahádah of Faith. The variations in the method of Obligatory Prayer depend upon the necessities of those who will be performing the Prayers for the Dispensation prescribed. The Şaláh has extraordinary effects on those who perform them, and the Elementary Realm is once again affected by the Psychological Realm which voluntarily chooses to obey the prescription received from the Heavenly Realm. Each Prayer has certain genuflections which the Body performs and through these genuflections the Sensible Individual (إنس-Ins) is drawn near to God Almighty, learns to be obedient to the Highest Order of existence, and enters into a special relationship with the Living Creator. All of which could not be achieved except through the performance of the Prayer which is created and designated by God through His Chosen Messenger.

### ❖ III. The Participation in Fasting- (صوم-Sawm)

Fasting is the act of abstaining from food, drink, intercourse, and consciously refraining from committing reprehensible deeds and having wicked thoughts. Fasting develops a relation to those deprived of basic necessities and provides the soul with capability to undergo hardship while at the same time cleansing the body of impurities. Fasting is designed to be a spiritual exercise in abstinence and it is a time for the soul to draw near unto God through praiseworthy deeds and refreshingly restructure one's life according to its pressing needs. It is essentially a time of prayer and reflection through which the Soul may make an assessment of its existence and make the necessary adjustments to move further along [the Path](#) in the Journey unto God. Fasting produces frugality and humility into the Elementary Realm and enjoins upon the active participants the ways and means of accomplishing whatsoever may be required for sanctimonious fellowship among the lowly and despised in the Elementary Realm. Thus Fasting for the prescribed period accomplishes unity and harmony between the spirit, soul and body.

#### ❖ IV. The Offering of Charity- (زكاة-Zakáh)

Zakáh is a determined percentage of income set aside for those in need, a charitable tax. The Offering of Charity is a way of purifying the Soul and the possessions of the Body through kindly acts. The true meaning of zakáh is purification and justification which are synonymously represented through a single act. One of the benefits of paying Zakáh is the increase in what is paid out, though this may seem unbelievable and unnoticeable at first. It is “Obligatory” because it is a Divine Injunction, but it is voluntary because it must be offered willingly without penalty. Once again, the Command for this Pillar comes from the Heavenly Realm affecting the Psychological Realm by the choice of the observer to obey the Injunction (or not) which in turn affects the Elementary Realm through the performance (or denial) of the act. Those who are incapable of providing for themselves such as the lame, the blind, the deaf, and so forth, are the recipients of the tax and their necessities are provided for. This is the effect of Zakáh in the Elementary Realm. Further effects are the increase for both parties within the Soul by the increase of the Spirit of giving.

## ❖ V. The Journey of the Pilgrimage- (حج-Hajj)

The Pilgrimage is the journey of the Body to a designated place for a prescribed amount of time for the purpose of performing certain rites and ceremonies. Pilgrimage brings together various people (with various histories, cultures, languages, and races) from various places around the world for a united purpose, the Journey towards the Sacred Spot. This Journey is equated with the [Journey of the Soul towards God](#) and the rites and ceremonies reflect this journey in various ways. In essence the Pilgrim must leave behind the daily routine and meet others on the same Pilgrimage on even ground. This unites kings and servants, criss-crosses cultural boundaries, and harmonizes race through the establishment of the Divine Command from the Heavenly Realm. The conscious decision in the Psychological Realm to forgo the ego of the Sensible Individual (إنس-Ins) in order to make the journey affect the Elemental Realm by the union of the various conditions of the various people. Whenever the Pilgrimage is made the participants are united for a common purpose and must fellowship together in order to complete the Pilgrimage. This establishes a harmony within the Elementary Realm which has a unique and continuous effect on the participants. As the journey is completed this higher level of existence is perpetuated within the Soul which permeates throughout the Elemental Realm. [cf.]