

Botswana Muslim Association

Gaborone Da'wah Committee

**Your First Step
To Islam**

Sheikh Hategekimana Hassan



Introduction

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w). his family and companions.

This booklet of Your First Step to Islam is aimed to introduce the basic teachings of Islam and the practice of how to perform Wudhu and Swalaat.

This booklet is characterised by its simple approach, clarity of words which are user friendly and appropriate to the first level learners of Islam.

by Sheikh Hategekimana Hassan

What is Islam?

Islam is Arabic word which means peace, obedience and submission to the will of Allah (God). One can only achieve real peace of mind and heart as individual and in society at large through obedience and submission to the will of God.

Who is a Muslim?

A Muslim is a person who chooses to live a peaceful life through submission to the will of Allah (God). Who is the Loving, the Merciful and the Compassionate God.

Muslims greet each other with the greeting of peace. (Assalamu Alaikum) 'peace be upon you'. A Muslim is a moderate person, A person who lives a well balanced life. The Qur'an the final revelation from God recognises this and named the Muslims a 'Moderate community. Conflict and extremism are not part of Muslim life. These two concepts are totally in contradiction with the above mentioned concept of moderation and balanced society.

A Muslim is a person who always strives to better his/her life and the life of others through
c a r e m e r c y a n d c o m p a s s i o n .

Who is Allah?

Allah is a name preferred by Muslims world wide for the the Supreme Being, the Creator and the Sustainer of the world. The name Allah means Modimo in Setswana, Mungu in Swahili and Dieu in French. It is this God that Muslims surrender and submit their life to.

Why Muslims prefer the name Allah?

Muslims prefer to use the name Allah than Modimo in Setswana or God in English for the following reasons:

1- Gender: the name God or Dieu in French accept masculine and feminine form. The name Allah in Arabic does not accept neither masculine or feminine form.

2- Number: The name Modimo, Mungu, God or Dieu accept plural form, while the name Allah in Arabic keeps its singular form only. Therefore, the name Allah is unique and personal name for the Creator of the universe, who is absolute and incomparable to that He has created.

“Say, He is Allah(God)only One, the Absolute and the Eternal. No children were born from Him, no was He born from any person. And He is not comparable to any person or anything that He created”. Qur'an: 112

Allah is not a different Lord

Allah is not a different Lord from the Lord that sent the previous prophets and messengers. Allah is the same Lord of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.

How do we know Allah?

Allah is not visible to us in any form. We know about Him through the signs of what He has created. Like: the sun, the moon, the stars, the animals, human beings and all that visible to us or invisible, all that we can touch or not. Allah sees us we cannot see Him, Allah hears us, we cannot hear Him, Allah is closer to us than anything that we can feel but we cannot feel His presence. Allah says in the Qur'an: “ **Fear not, surely I am with you both hearing and seeing.**” Qur'an , 20:46

How then Allah is worshipped?

There is no third part in Islam. Muslims worship Allah directly without any intermediary. They worship Allah in a such way that their acts of worship are directly dedicated to only Allah (God) and they do not associate partners with Him. Allah says: “ **You alone we worship and from you Alone we ask for help.**” Qur'an , 1 : 4

In Islam, no one has the right to be invoked, supplicated or worshipped , but Allah Alone Allah (God) is not in need of any of His creatures. But all that he created depend on Him for everything. Allah (God) knows what has happened, what is happening and what will happen. There is nothing that occurs in the world except through His will. Whatever He wills is, and whatever He does not will never be.

Allah is not Muhammad or Jesus (P.B.U.T)

Allah is not Muhammad or Jesus (P.B.U.T) , and Muhammad or Jesus are not Allah(God). Allah says in the Qur'an: “ **Indeed, they have disbelieved who have claimed that God is the Messiah Jesus son of Mary. The Messiah said: children of Israel worship God, my Lord and your lord. Whoever associates partners in worship with God, God has forbidden Paradise for him, and his home is the Hellfire. For the wrongdoers, there will be no helpers.**” Qur'an, 5:72

Who are the Prophets?

Muslims believe that all prophets and messengers of Allah were all created human beings who had none divine qualities of Allah (God). Muslims believe in all prophets and messengers of Allah and they make no distinction between them. Prophets of Allah includes Adam, Noah, Abraham ,Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus and others, and finally Muhammad (P.B.U.T). Allah says: “ **Say we believe in Allah, and in that has been revealed to us and that which was sent down to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, and Jacob, and the tribes, and that which was given to Moses and the prophets of their Lord; we make no distinction between any of them, and to Him (Allah) we surrender as (Muslims).**” Qur'an, 2:135 A Muslim cannot be a true Muslim if he/she does not believe in all prophets and messengers of Allah (God).

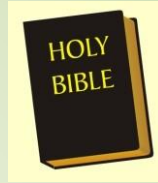
Revealed Scriptures



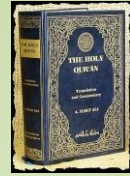
Zabuur(The Psalms)



Taurat (The Torah)



Injeel (The Bible)



The Qur'an

Muslims believe that Allah (God) revealed to His messengers Books to teach and guide mankind unto the straight path. Muslims believe in all revealed Books of Allah. This includes Books of prophet Abraham, Zabuur/Psalms of prophet David, Taurat/the Torah of prophet Moses, Injeel/ The Bible of prophet Jesus and finally the Qur'an for prophet Muhammad peace be upon them all. However, Muslims do not believe that all other Books are accurate except Qur'an. They have undergone tremendous changes due to translation from one language to another. This has also affected on the originality and authenticity of the word of Allah (God) in these Books. Due to this, Muslims do not regard the Torah or the Bible as accurate, and because of the existence of different versions of the Bible which for example, the Roman Catholic Bible has seven books more than the king James Version. It is only the Qur'an which still recited in its original language of Arabic. Also, the Almighty Allah (God) granted the Qur'an protection from all kind of corruption and distortion. Allah says: “ **Indeed we have revealed the Qur'an and we will protect it from corruption.**” Qur'an, 15:9

Who are the Angels?

Angels are creations of Allah, are created from divine light. They perform their duties perfectly without objection. Angels have special qualities and powers that enable them to carry out their duties. Unlike mankind, angels do not have free will, they follow Allah's (God) commands and they never disobey or make mistakes. Angels are not male nor female, they do not get tired in their service, they do not eat, drink, rest or sleep. Angels worship Allah (God) continuously and celebrate His praise day and night without exhaustion. Human beings are not in the position to see angels in their angelic form, except when they appear in human form. Angels are capable of changing to any descent form in order to perform their duties.

There are many angels in the kingdom of Allah (God). The most known angels are:

- Jibrail (Gabriel), was angel in charge of revelation from Allah (God) to His messengers and prophets.
- Mikail (Michael), is angel in charge of Weather.
- Israfil is angel in charge of blowing the trumpet at time of the end of the world.
- 'Izrail is angel in charge of death. He is responsible for terminating our life.

The Last Day of Judgement

Muslims firmly believe in every thing that Allah has mentioned in the Qur'an. Muslims believe this world will come to an end. they believe that on that day every thing will cease to exist. As regard when this world will come to an end? there is no one including the Prophets and the Messengers of Allah can tell or even predict the time of this event.

Allah (God) Alone knows when this event will happen. No one including the prophets can tell when it will take place. During the time of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) people came and asked him about the Last Day. Allah (God) replied to them by requesting His Messenger Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to inform them the following: "The information about it is kept with Allah alone. What do you know? It may be forthcoming"
Q u r ' a n 3 3 : 6 3

The Day of Resurrection

As Muslims firmly believe in the Last Day, they also firmly believe in the Day of Resurrection. Muslims believe that on this day people will emerge from their graves and will stand on the Assembly place waiting for the final judgment of Allah (God). People will be judged fairly and according to how they lived their lives, and no one will be wronged. Every one who obeys and worship Allah (God) will be rewarded according to his/her deeds a permanent of happiness and bliss in. For those who did not perform according to the commands of Allah will be punished. But we should also understand that Allah is the Most Merciful and the Most Forgiving.

The fundamental Duties of Islam

There are five fundamental duties of Islam which every Muslim must perform. These fundamentals are essentials because their main objective is to transform a person's life into one that is the conformity with the will of Allah (God). They also inspire a person to strive towards building the balanced society based on justice, equality and righteousness. It is reported that Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said: (Islam is based on five fundamental duties:

a- Shahadah (declaration of faith)

The first basic duty is the declaration of: La ilaha illa lahu Muhammadur rasulul lah. "There is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah". This declaration is the foundation of all actions in Islam, other basic duties follow this affirmation.

b- Salah (five compulsory daily prayers)

Salah is a practical demonstration of faith, it allows a person to communicate with Allah directly without third person in between. Salah is meant to develop in a person the qualities of self-discipline, steadfastness and obedience to the command of Allah.

c- Zakaat

(welfare contribution)

Zakaat is one of the fundamental principles of Islamic economy. It is a financial institution which is meant to ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and build a society where everyone has access to wealth capable to contribute to the welfare of others. This institution is a Divine obligation performing as the most effective parameter in addressing the financial condition of the less fortunate in the society.

Zakaat is payable by a Muslim male or female from his/her annual savings. It is spent on empowering the less fortunate and disadvantages in the society. The institution of Zakaat strives to achieve objectives of reducing the poverty rates; and improve the quality of life of people in the society. More importantly, Zakaat inculcates moral, social and spiritual values in each individual.

d- Sawm

(Fasting during the month of Ramadhan)

Fasting is the annual obligatory act of worship. Fasting takes place during the holy month of Ramadan (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar). A person must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and must keep a check over the actions of his/her eyes, ears, tongue, hands, and heart. , from dawn to sunset.

Fasting during the holy month of Ramadhan offers all Muslims male and female the opportunity to reform themselves and achieve spiritual growth and keeps them away from selfishness, greed and develops in them the sense of love, c o m p a s s i o n a t e , c a r e a n d s h a r e .

The messenger of Allah (God) Muhammad (PBUH) said: "fasting is not only abstinence from food and drink, fasting is to refrain from obscene acts."

We learn from this, fasting implies that one should have complete control over his/her p h y s i c a l a n d m e n t a l a b i l i t i e s .

e- Pilgrimage

(Hajj)

Hajj is an annual act of worship on those Muslims male and female who can afford to undertake the journey physically and financially.

It is performed once in life time during the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar.

Hajj depicts Islamic brotherhood and the unity of humankind. During the Hajj the limits of language, race, colour and geographical area disappear. The bond of faith becomes evident and superior. All Muslims from every corner of the world experience the true sense equality, fraternity and justice.



How to perform Wudhu

1- Allah says in the Qur'an concerning the performance of wudhu:

“O Believers! When you prepare for prayers, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles, and [if you] do not find water then betake yourselves to clean earth and wipe your faces and your hands with it.” Surat 5:6
According to the above Qur'anic directive, there should be no prayer without correct wudhu. So it is important for a person to learn how to perform it.

2- When to Perform Wudhu

Every Muslim male or female must be in a state of spiritual purification before performing the daily obligatory prayers which is known as wudhu. Wudhu is also required before performing other numerous activities of worship, such as optional prayers, reading of the Qur'an and performing Tawaaaf during 'Umrah or the pilgrimage (Hajj).

1- Make Niyyah (Intention)

The First step to start is to make Niyyah (intention) in this way “**I am performing wudhu for the pleasure of Allah, and to seek closeness to Him.**”

2- Hands: Wash both hands

After making the intention of performing wudhu, you wash both your hands to the wrists three times. You should not forget to make khilaa, which means, to wash between fingers.



3- Mouth: Gargling

After washing both your hands to the wrists, you gargle and rinse the mouth three times.



4- Nose: Snuff water into the nostrils

Snuff water into the nostrils then wash the tip of the nose three times.



5- Face: Wash the face

Wash the face from the right ear to the left ear and from the forehead to the throat including the chin three times.



6- Arms: Wash the arms

Wash both arms starting with the right arm, then wash the left arm thoroughly From wrist to the elbow three times.



7- Head: pass the hands over the head

Move the palm of the wet hands over the head, starting from the top of the forehead to the back and pass both hands over the back of the head to the neck.



8- Ears: rub inside and out of the ear

Rub wet fingers into the grooves of both ears and holes and also pass the thumbs behind the ears.



9- Feet: wash both feet

Wash both feet to the ankles, starting from the right and making sure that water has reached between the toes and all other parts of the feet.



10- Shahadah:

After completing wudhu raise forefinger of the right hand and say “*Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illa Ilaahu wa ash-hadu anna Muhammada Rasuulu Ilaah*”. Meaning:

“I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and bear witness that Muhammad is His messenger”.

Read the following Du'a: “*Allahumma ij'alnii mina ttawaabiina waj'alnii minal mutattwahirin.*” “O Allah make me among those who repent, and make me among those who are clean and pure.”

N.B: after you have performed wudhu you may find yourself in a situation whereby the fresh wudhu is needed. You may need to refresh your wudhu if any of the following things happen after you were in the state of wudhu.

- a- Natural discharges: urinating, passing wind and the like.
- b- Flow of blood or pus from any part of the body.
- c- Full mouth vomiting.
- d- Falling asleep.
- e- Touching the sexual organs
- f- Loss of consciousness.
- g- Matrimonial relationship.

After completing wudhu now you can proceed and start performance of Swalaat. But, before someone commences the performance of Swalaat Adhan (Call to prayer) is recommended to be offered. When giving Adhan one should stand facing the Qiblah, raise the hands to the ears and say the following loud.

Adhan (Call to prayer)

1. Allaahu Akbar	Allaahu Akbar	Allaahu Akbar	Allaahu Akbar
Allah is the Greatest.	Allah is the Greatest.	Allah is the Greatest.	Allah is the Greatest.

2. Ash'hadu anllaa ilaaha illallaah	Ash'hadu anllaa ilaaha illallaah
I bear witness that there is no god but Allah.	I bear witness that there is no god but Allah.

3. Ash'hadu anna Muhammada rRasuulu Ilaah
I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger.

Ash'hadu anna Muhammada rRasuulu Ilaah
I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger.

4. Hayya 'alas-Swalaah	Hayya 'alas-Swalaah
Come to prayer.	come to prayer.

5. Hayya 'alal falaah	Hayya 'alal falaah
Come to success.	come to success.

6. Allaahu Akbar	Allaahu Akbar
Allah is the Greatest.	Allah is the Greatest.

7. Laa ilaaha illallaah
There is no god but Allah.

Iqaamah (The start of prayer)

After the Adhan has been made, then the Iqaamah follows as a means to inform that Swalah has begun.

Iqaamah is performed in the same manner that the Adhaan is performed. Except that Iqaamah is made in a lower voice than the Adhan. The following are the words of Iqaamah:

1. *Allaahu Akbar* *Allaahu Akbar* *Allaahu Akbar* *Allaahu Akbar*

Allah is the
Greatest.

Allah is the
Greatest.

Allah is the
Greatest.

Allah is the
Greatest.

2. *Ash'hadu anllaa ilaaha illallaah* *Ash'hadu anllaa ilaaha illallaah*

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah.

3. *Ash'hadu anna Muhammada rRasuulu Ilaah*

I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger.

Ash'hadu anna Muhammada rRasuulu Ilaah

I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger.

4. *Hayya 'alas-Swalaah*

Come to prayer.

Hayya 'alas-Swalaah

Come to prayer.

5. *Hayya 'alal falaah*

Come to success.

Hayya 'alal falaah

Come to success.

6. *Qad Qaamatis-Swalaah*

Swalaah has begun

Qad Qaamatis-Swalaah

Swalaah has begun

7. *Allaahu Akbar*

Allah is the Greatest.

Allaahu Akbar

Allah is the Greatest.

8. *Laa ilaaha illallaah*

There is no god but Allah.

Muslims must perform five prayers a day. There are five compulsory prayers in Islam. These five compulsory prayers are performed at different given times of the day. Each prayer differs from the other depending on the Rakaat / unit of that particular prayer.

Names of Swalaat (Prayers)

Swalaat	Time	No of Rakaat (unit)
1- <i>Faj'r</i>	at dawn before sun rises	2 Rakaat (Units)
2- <i>Dhuh'r</i>	Mid-Day	4 Rakaat (Units)
3- <i>'Asr</i>	Mid-Afternoon	4 Rakaat (Units)
4- <i>Magh'rib</i>	After sun set	3 Rakaat (Units)
5- <i>'Isha</i>	Night prayer	4 Rakaat (Units)



How to perform Swalaat

1. Intention

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said:

“All actions are by intentions, and every person shall be rewarded according to his/her intention.” Note: Intention is by heart and not by mouth.

2. Make Takbiir

The First step to start Swalaat(prayer) is to make Takbiir. Rasulullah (Peace be upon him) used to start Swalaat by saying:

Allaahu Akbar

1. Raise your hands while making Takbiir. Look at the picture
2. Then place your right arm on you left arm and place it over your chest.
3. Then incline your head during Swalaat and fix your sight towards the area for Sujuud (prostration).
4. When performing Swalat don't look at the sky or at the right or left.



3. Opening Supplications (Thanaa)

Rasuulullah (s.a.w.) used to say the following opening Supplications before reading Surat al-Fatihah.

(Subhanaka Allaahumma wa bihamdika wa tabarakas muka
wa ta 'aala jadduka walaah ilaaha gha'ruka.)

“O Allaah, You are Glorified and Praised; Your Name is Blessed; Your Majesty is Exalted, and none has the right to be worshiped except You.”

4. Recitation of Surat al-Fatiha

Rasuulullah (s.a.w.) used to read:

A'uudhu billahi minasshaytwaani rrajiim.

"I seek refuge with Allaah from the Evil One, the Rejected"

1. Bisimllahi Rrahmaani Rrahiim

"In the Name of Allaah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful"

2. Alhamdu lillaahi rabbil 'aalamiin.

"Praise is only for Allah, Lord."

3. ARrahmaani Rrahiim.

"The Most Kind the Most Merciful of Mercy."

4. Maaliki yaw'mi Ddiin

"Master of the Day of Judgment"

5. Iyyaaka na'budu wa Iyyaaka nasta'iin.

"You alone we worship and to you alone we pray for help."

6. Ihdina Sswiraatwal mustaqiim.

"Show us the straight path."

7. Swiratwa lladhiina an'amta 'alayhim.

"The path of those whom you have blessed."

Ghay'ril maghdwuubi 'alayhim wala ddwaalliin.

"Not the way of those who earned Your anger, nor of those who went astray."

Aamiin

"Oh Allah please accept our prayer"



5. Recite any other short Surat

Any of the following two short Suras can be read after Surat al-Fatihah.

Surat Al-Ikhlās (Number 112)

Bisimllahi Rrahmaani Rrahiim

"In the Name of Allaah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful"

1. **Qul huwa Allaahu ahad.**

"Say : He is Allah, the only One."

2. **Allaahu sswamad.**

"Allah helps and does not need help."

3. **Lamyalid wa lamyuulad.**

"He does not produce a child, and he was not born of anyone."

4. **Wa lamyakullahuu kufuwan ahad.**

"There is no one equal to him."

Surat An-Nas (Number 114)

Bisimllahi Rrahmaani Rrahiim

"In the Name of Allaah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful"

1. **Qul a'uudhubi rabbi nnaas.**

"Say : I seek refuge in the Sustainer of Mankind."

2. **Maliki nnaas.**

"The Owner of Mankind."

3. **Ilaahi nnaas.**

"Lord of Mankind."

4. **Min sharril waswaasil khannaas.**

"From the evil of the sneaking whisperer."

5. **Alladhii yuwas'wisu fii swuduuri nnaas.**

"Who whispers in the hearts of Mankind."

6. **Minal jinnati wa nnaas.**

"(Whether he be) from among jinns or mankind."

6. Bowing (Rukuu')

Raise your hands as shown in the picture and say:
Allaahu Akbar

Then make Rukuu', while in Rukuu' say :

Subhaana Rabbiyal adhiim (3 times)

"Glory to my Lord the Supreme."



7. Rising up from (Rukuu')

When rising from Rukuu' say:

Sami'a llahu liman hamidah.

"Allah hears the one who praises Him."

While still in the position of standing say :

Rabbanaa wa lakal hamd.

"Our Lord, to You be all Praise."



8. Prostration (Sujjud)

Say: Allaahu Akbar, then go for Sujjud. While in Sujjud say:

Subhaana Rabbiyal a'laa. (3 times)

"Glory to my Lord the Most High."

The right position of Sujjud is as demonstrated in this picture.

a) Let the forehead and the nose touch the ground. b) Spread the palms by keeping the fingers together c) point them towards the Qiblah d) Put your knees and toes down firmly on the ground. and e) Point the front of the toes towards the Qiblah f) Keep the heels together and keep your feet upright and not on top of the other. g) Sujjud is performed on the following limbs: The

forehead, the nose the palms, the knees and the feet.



9. Rising from (Sujud)

When rising from Sujud say:

Allaahu Akbar.

" Allah is the Greatest."

While pausing between two sujuuds sit in this position and sa

Rabbi gh'firlii wa r'ham'nii

"O my Lord! Forgive me, and have mercy upon me."

1-The right position of sitting down: Rasulullah (s.a.w.) would lay his left foot along the ground and sit on it

2-A person should remain for a while sitting, until every bone returned to its position and not rushing for the second Sujud



10. The second (Sujud)

Say: **Allaahu Akbar.**

"Allah is the greatest."

And go for the second Sujud. While in the Sujud position say:

Subhaana Rabbiyal a'laa. (3 times)

" Glory to my Lord the Most High."



11. Second (Raka't)

In the second Rak'a repeat all the steps of the first Rak'at.

12. Sitting for (Tashahhud)

While sitting for Tashahhud read the following:

Attahiyyaatu lillaahi wa sswalawaatu wa ttayyibaatu, Assalaam 'aliyka ayyuha Nabiyyu wa rahma tullaahi wa barakaatuh, Assalammu 'alaynaa wa 'alaa 'ibaadilaahi sswaalihiiin. Ash'hadu allaa ilaaha illallahu, wa ash'hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasuuluh.



The meaning:

"All kinds of Greetings are for Allah, all purity is for Allah and all best prayers are for Allah. Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and Allah's mercy and blessings. Peace be on us and on all righteous servants of Allah . I bear witness that no one is worthy of worship except Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is his servant and Messenger."

13. Sitting for second (Tashahhud)

Repeat the first part of Tashahud in step 12, then read the following thereafter.

Allah humma swalli 'alaa Muhammadin wa 'alaa aali Muhammadin, Kama swallayta 'ala Ibraahiima wa 'alaa aali Ibraahiima innaka hamiidu mmajjiid, wa baarik 'ala Muhammadin wa 'alaa ali Muhammadin, Kama baarakta 'alaa Ibraahiima wa 'alaa aali Ibraahiima innaka hamiidu mmajjiid.



The meaning:

“O Allah, grace Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his family, just as you graced Ibrahim (peace be upon him) and his family. Surely, you are praiseworthy, The Great . O Allah, bless Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his family, just as you blessed Ibrahim (peace be upon him) and his family. Surely, you are praiseworthy, The Great”.

14. Making Salaam

After completing the Tashahud, turn to the right side and say salam and then turn to the left and say salam:

Assalamu 'al'yikum wa Rah'matullah wa Barakaatuh.

"Peace and the mercy of Allah. be upon you."



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