

## God is God

=====

Islam is based on several fundamental pivots. The first is acknowledging the existence of God, the One God, The Arabic word AL-LAH means literally the One God, God of Abraham, God of Israel. The word Islam means surrender to this One God, the Creator, the Intelligent Designer who has created the universe and all therein. God in Islam is a personal God. It means that He is concerned and involved with every creature and all things simultaneously. Man needs no intermediaries or intercessors with God. God is present and is never absent or amiss. God created many living beings but He loves man most and has placed him above all other beings for a purpose. There are beings that we can see yet there are invisible beings we know little about, such as angels and demons. Out of all creatures that God has created He wants something special from man. All beings living and non - living are obedient to God and subservient to His laws, and hence voluntarily or involuntarily do homage to God, even the electrons in the atom. Man and only man can show more than obedience. He can show love. That is what God wants from man, love. God loves man He expects from man to love Him back. Through this love man becomes God's viceroy on earth. The expression, "man is in the image of God" means that man can be creative, can be a designer, can be a master of knowledge, and must be just and merciful as God is. Man is entrusted to investigate the universe around him, and in so doing discover and acknowledge the presence of a supreme power that has put all this together, God. In such an endeavor, man can worship God in a unique way as a free man not as a bondman, for love does not come with slavery. Serving God is a different issue, it is the service of love and recognition of the wonders of God's creation. Yet, man only man, is given the free choice, the free will. Only man can go to the extreme end of denying the very existence of God and no thunderbolt will instantly overtake him. For one important tenet in Islam is that life is only a test. We existed in a spiritual form before we were born. Then we live on earth for a certain period of time. Then we die. We are a combination of the dust of the earth and the breath of life from God's own Spirit. God or part of Him lives in every one of us with no preference to any race or religion. When we die the dust goes to dust but that part of God within us returns to God. A day will come when the universe will come to an end and it is called Doomsday. And a day will come when all the dead will be resurrected and it is called the Day of Resurrection. And then all beings will be accountable for their deeds. This is called the Day of Judgment. The final destination will be Paradise or Hell. Time has been one of God's inventions. Before time was invented there was God and after time stops there is God. This is the meaning of the Alpha and Omega. He has no beginning and He has no end. In the Hereafter time stops and eternal life takes hold beyond the count of time. But man in his course of life is subject to trials and makes mistakes, will he be doomed automatically to Hell. Islam recognizes that one of the epithets or attributes of God is the Ultimate Merciful the All- Forgiver. He may forgive all sins other than blasphemy, atheism and polytheism. For God has he no rival or equal or partner. He will also exercise justice in the final judgment, justice unattained and long sought for on earth. He will not though pardon man's injustice to his fellow man, but

He may forgive transgressions in man's personal conduct. Islam does not recognize the original sin, for every man is responsible for his own deeds. Repentance eradicates one's mistakes. Adam - the first man was created by the word of God. "Be" and it is. He was created out of clay. He and Eve were admitted to the Garden of the Test, and were bidden not to approach the fruit of a certain tree. But Satan enticed them into the first sin, the sin of disobedience. They were all banished from the Garden. Christianity assumes that this first sin is borne by humanity and has never been forgiven until Jesus- assumed in Christianity to be the Son of God- redeemed mankind from sin through his own crucifixion. Islam does not recognize that original sin, for when Adam came down to the earth he repented and asked God for forgiveness and he was forgiven, for no man burdens the sin of another. Islam does not recognize the sonship of God, except in the same sense that all of us bear within part of God's Spirit. Jesus was created in a miraculous way, without a father. Adam was created in a more miraculous way, out of a heap of dust without a father or a mother. Jesus was a messenger of God, a great prophet, a teacher in a long chain of messengers and prophets ending up with Muhammad. Islam asserts that Jesus was rescued by God and the one crucified was in his likeness, presumably Judas transfigured into Jesus form. Muhammad did not come up with a new religion. The religion of God has been one since the very beginning of time. All prophets have called for Islam (surrender to God and finding peace in this surrender). Muhammad was prophecied in the Bible whether in the old Testament or in the New Testament (Refer to "That Prophet"- [www.Islam-innerpeace.com](http://www.Islam-innerpeace.com) ).To proclaim one's embracing of Islam one needs to testify that God is the Only God and that Muhammad is a messenger of God. God has no form and has no likeness that we can model. Therefore, Islam does not recognize any Trinity regarding God. We can feel the presence of God within ourselves, in the goodness of our hearts. We can feel the presence of God through looking into all of His creation and admiring it. But we cannot model God or assume that He came in flesh to the world, He or incarnated in His Son icon. There is no God incarnate in Islam. We cannot accept that God was crucified to bear our sins. We cannot accept that God was ever dead. Jesus was the Word of God and the Word became flesh. The Word was "Be" and it was. The power of God is not embodied only in His ability to create and recreate after death, but it is also manifest in His omniscience and ubiquity. He knows all things. Nothing is hidden from Him and He is present everywhere. Nothing will surprise God He knows the past, the present and the future. Yet, man makes his own destiny – he has the free will and the free choice within bounds and testing constraints that he probably has no hand in. This is called fate. But what man does on his own is his destiny. It is the response of man to his own test, i.e. his own fate that will be judged. And God will judge everyone. How can this be? That is God, and nothing is impossible to God, for there is nothing like unto Him. He did not create us and leave us alone. He is with us all the time. He makes chances for us, we make choices. He creates circumstances and arranges events which we call opportunities and luck. He fathoms our responses. He rushes to us when we slightly approach toward Him. He helps those who want His guidance, but He does not make us believe. It is our choice. God is the setter of coincidences, the master networker of peoples' lives. But He does not forge our responses for us. It is our responsibility. He sets up environmental circumstances and conditions to judge what we do. In the end, we make our own

destiny. But we cannot surprise God, for He sees through the future but He does not make us do what we choose to do. He knows but does not force. Why are all these injustices perpetrated then when He could have prevented them? This old question It is the free choice for which all of us will be accountable for. Justice will be finally manifest when our two lives are put together, for this worldly life is not the only life, but the life to come will witness the redressing of all injustices perpetrated on earth. Eternal life is promised to be either in Paradise or in Hell. The first step in Islam is an act of faith. To accept reckoning has been a problem for many, while to acknowledge a God who cannot be seen is another. To believe in an invisible God, has been a big problem for many, for man always believes only what he sees. But God meant for man to draw conclusions from what he sees of God's creation and understand that what man cannot see now does not necessarily mean that it does not exist. God wants man to see beyond what his own eyes can or cannot see. God's creation all around testifies to the fact that there is an intricate order in this universe. Behind this order there must be a force, a mastermind. Atheists call it Nature. We call it God. Many organisms were not seen before the invention of the microscope but did this mean that they did not exist, and even the atoms and the electrons do exist yet we cannot see them. Islam calls on us to believe that there are worlds beyond the reach of human perception, and God is beyond the reach of our perception and conceptualization. This is called eschatology or the hidden world. No statues or graven images or drawings are ever to be found in mosques (Moslem places of worship). If one wants to see God face to face all he has to do is to look inside, because God is within him. Communication with God is easy. All one needs to do is to talk to Him inwardly. God sent His word the Quran. It is a unique book of wisdom and spiritualism as well as laws. When one's mind is troubled he may listen to the Quran and strangely he feels that God answers his question or trouble and calms his mind. It is the voice of God in a book, a book that is alive. This is an open communication channel between man and God. God also speaks to us through our minds, in our sleep and in our times of serenity. Talk to God and God will talk back to you in the form of ideas, inspirations and inklings if you just listen. Try it with willingness to believe.