

# True Islamic Terminologies

**Who is Muslim:** The best human being in the service of Allah.

This definition covers both Right of Allah and rights of others, that is Haqqoq ul Allah and Haqqoq ul ibad.

**Pillars of Islam:** Imaan (Faith), Ibaadat (Worship), Aqlaaq (Good Character/manners and good morals), Ilm (Knowledge) and Adl.(Justice).

**Imaan (Faith/belief) =** The foundation of belief is the knowledge and understanding of his creator. Believe in oneness of Allah, belief in the Last Day, belief in Angeles, belief in Books revealed by Allah and belief in the Prophets sent by Allah as guidance to mankind.

**Ibaadat (Worship)=** Shahadah (There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the last Prophet of Allah), Salaat (prayer), Zakat (obligatory giving in charity), Hajj (pilgrimage), and swam (fasting in the month of Ramadan)

**Aqlaaq (character/manners)=** Consists of five elements: Good deeds to your parents, to your family, to your neighbors, to your community and to humanity.

**Ilm (Knowledge)-** Consists of knowledge of Allah, the Quran, the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW), the world (physical and biological sciences), and knowledge of the unseen (research).

**Adl (Justice)=** Adl consists of: The spiritual internal struggle to conquer the ego, to be honest and trustworthy, fair in all dealings both personal and public, fight oppression, and set the example that attracts the hearts and minds of the disbelievers to the glories of Allah

# Four Pillars of Worship

**Salah (Prayer):** Salah is the lifeline that keeps man connected to Allah through life. Salah is not a passive ritual performance of body movement in certain positions, but an active dialogue with Allah. Salah is communicating with Allah; it is a one on one connection by a slave to his Master. Do not say let's go and perform salah, but say let's go and communicate or connect with Allah. It will greatly impact your attitude towards Salah. The proof of how Allah has answered our supplication in Salah lies in how we experience life in between the prayers.

**Zakat:** Zakat is not alm-giving but sharing your gifts from Allah with your less fortunate fellow beings. The word Zakat has two basic meanings; the first is "to thrive, to grow and to increase". The second meaning is "to purify." It is a means of purifying your wealth and enjoying the dual benefits of Allah's pleasure in fulfilling your obligation to Him, and also seeking His Mercy, which multiplies your wealth in this world and the next.

**Swam (Fasting in the month of Ramadan):** Ramadan is the best of months because man has made Allah his first and only priority. All the worship that Muslims are required to do; all of them are designed to help Muslims stay focused on Allah's mission within a world of competing distraction. Interestingly, fasting is the one exception wherein the worship is a sacrifice that Muslims make for Allah. All worship can be seen by your fellow beings, but Fasting cannot be seen by anyone, it is only between you and Allah. Fasting is not about what happens just in the month of Ramadan but how it affects your life in the other eleven months

**Hajj (Pilgrimage):** Hajj is not the visit to the Kaaba but it is time spent at Arafat in contemplation, introspection and dua.