

What is ISLAM?

At its core, Islam is a monotheistic religion, emphasising the belief in one, all-powerful God known as Allah. This belief in the oneness of God is fundamental and distinguishes Islam from other religions.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is considered the last prophet, believed to have received the final revelation from Allah, the Quran, which is the holy book of Islam.

The Quran is the central religious text of Islam, which Muslims believe to be a revelation from God. It is written in Arabic and contains guidance on all aspects of life, including moral directives, legal codes, and teachings on worship.

These are five basic acts of worship that are central to a Muslim's faith and practices:

1

Shahada (Faith)

The declaration of faith, stating there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.



2

Salah (Prayer)

Performing five daily prayers facing the Kaaba in Mecca.



3

Zakat (Almsgiving)

Giving a fixed portion of one's wealth to the poor and needy.



4

Sawm (Fasting)

Fasting from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan.



5

Hajj (Pilgrimage)

Making a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime if one is physically and financially able.



Islam provides comprehensive guidance on how to lead a moral and righteous life, covering aspects such as family life, social justice, ethics, and personal development.



Who is ALLAH?

Allah is the Arabic word for God and refers to the singular, all-powerful, and only deity in Islam. The concept of Allah encompasses absolute monotheism, meaning He is One, without partner or equal. Allah is central to Islamic faith; He is the creator, sustainer, and restorer of the world.

Attributes of Allah: Allah is described through 99 Beautiful Names (Asmaul Husna), each reflecting His unique attributes and qualities. These names include Al-Rahman (The Most Compassionate), Al-Rahim (The Most Merciful), Al-Salam (The Source of Peace), Al-Muhaymin (The Protector) and Al-Khaliq (The Creator), among others. These names help Muslims understand the divine nature of Allah and how He interacts with the world.

Relationship with Humanity: Allah's relationship with humanity is characterised by His mercy, forgiveness, and justice. Muslims seek a close relationship with Allah through prayer, supplication, and obedience to His commands. The concept of Tawhid (the oneness of Allah) encourages Muslims to live their lives in submission to His will, striving for moral excellence and compassion in their dealings with others.



Discover RAMADAN

A Month of Fasting, Reflection, and Community

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. It commemorates the month in which the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), making it the holiest and most sacred month for Muslims.

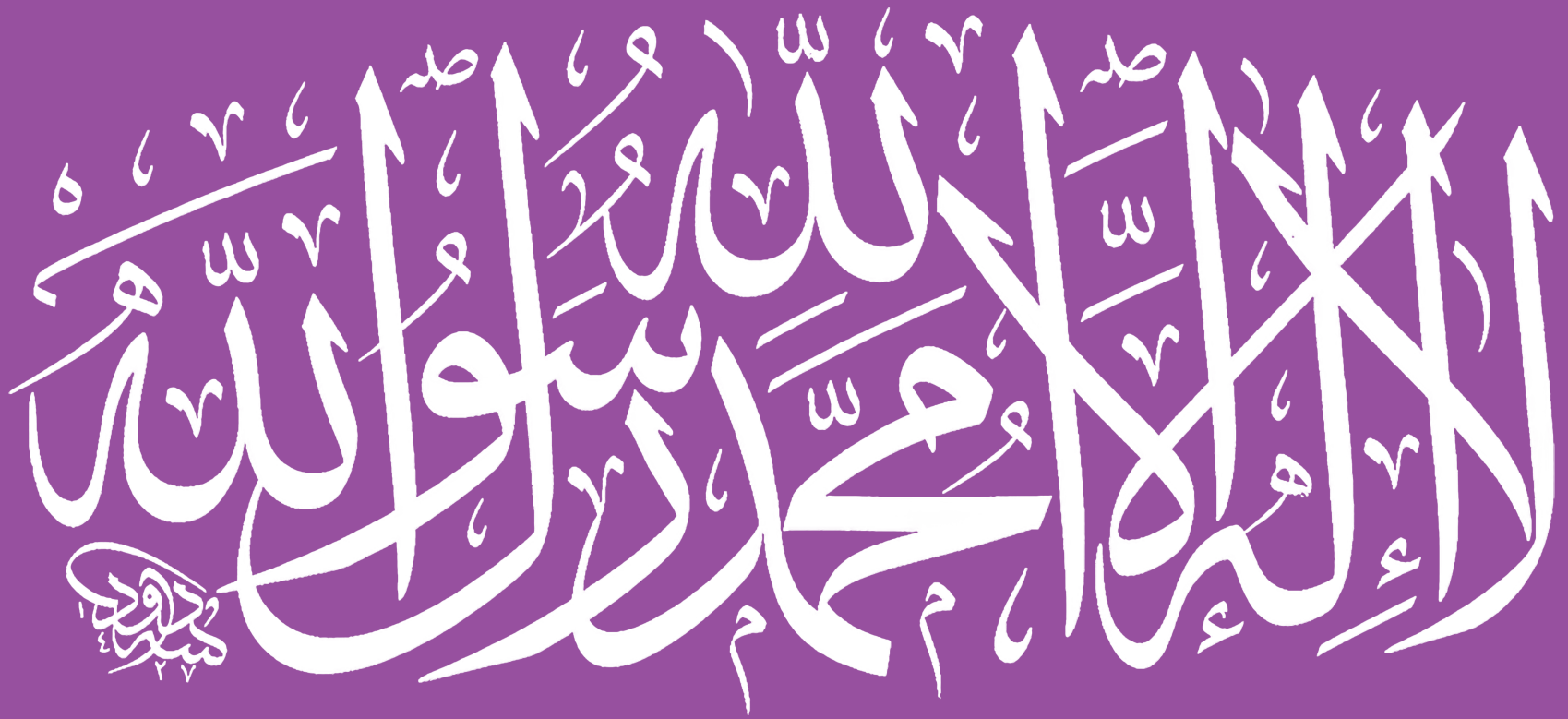
The Significance of Fasting: Fasting from dawn until sunset is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, intended to bring Muslims closer to Allah and to remind them of the suffering of the less fortunate. Fasting is a means of developing self-discipline, self-purification, and compassion.

Spiritual Reflection and Prayer: Ramadan is a time for increased religious devotion and reflection. Muslims are encouraged to read the Quran, engage in special prayers called Taraweeh, and seek Laylat al-Qadr (the Night of Decree), believed to be the night when the Quran was first revealed and when prayers are most likely to be answered.

Community and Charity: Charity and community are central to Ramadan. Muslims are encouraged to give Zakat (obligatory charity) and Sadaqah (voluntary charity) to help those in need. Breaking the fast together with family and community (Iftar) fosters a strong sense of belonging and brotherhood.

Eid al-Fitr: Ramadan concludes with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a festive day marking the end of fasting. Muslims perform a special prayer, give charity to the poor (Zakat al-Fitr), and celebrate with family and friends, sharing meals and gifts.





*Ash-hadu an la ilaha illa Allah, Wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasulu-Allah.
"I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."*

(F A I T H)

SHAHADA

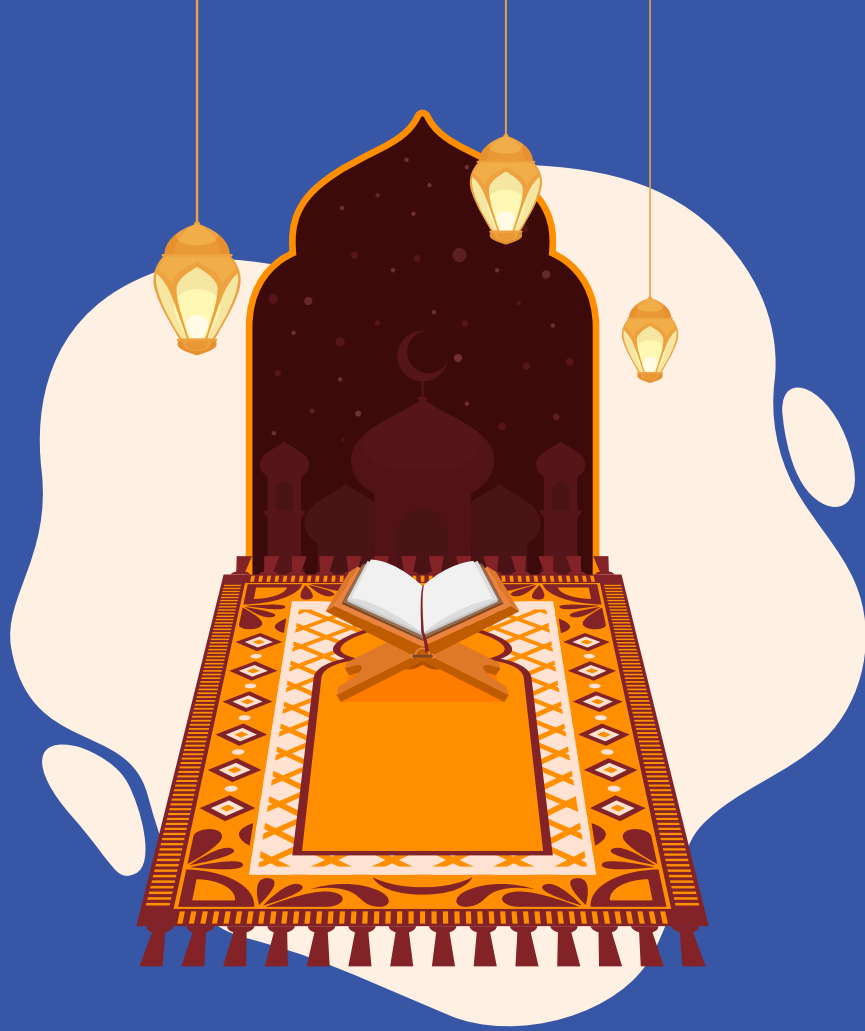
The Shahada is the Muslim profession of faith, expressing the two simple, fundamental beliefs that make one a Muslim: "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." This declaration affirms Islam's absolute belief in the oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad.

The Shahada is the first and most fundamental expression of Islamic faith. It must be recited with belief and conviction to convert to Islam.

The simplicity of the Shahada promotes the idea of unity and equality among Muslims, regardless of their ethnic or national differences.

Islam is the world's second-largest religion, with over 1.8 billion followers, indicating the widespread affirmation of the Shahada globally.





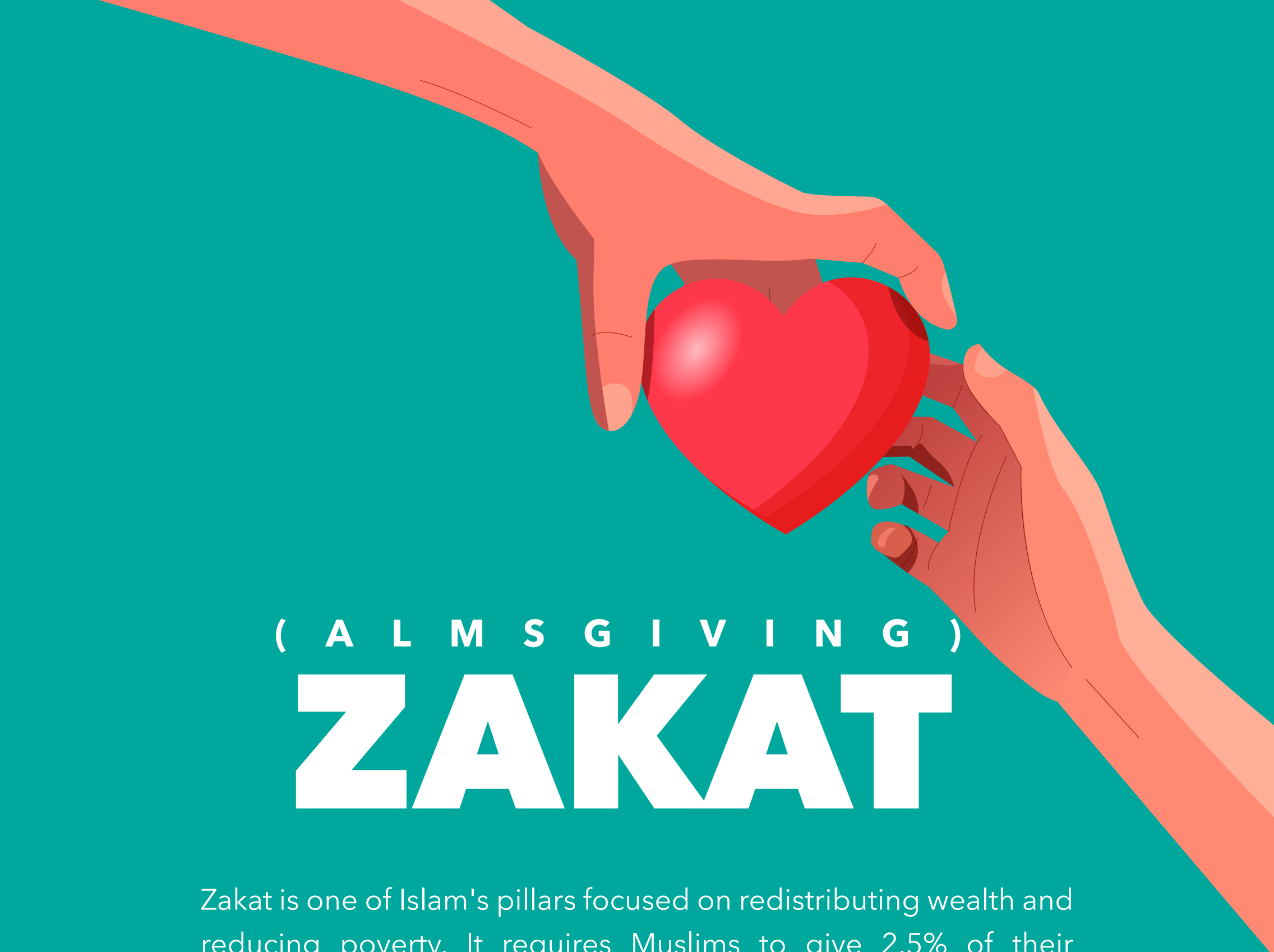
(P R A Y E R) SALAH

Muslims perform Salah five times a day, facing the Kaaba in Mecca. These prayers are a direct link between the worshipper and Allah. There are set times for prayers; at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and night. Salah helps keep believers mindful of Allah in the stress of daily life.

There are over 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide, creating a global rhythm of worship through these five daily prayers.

Regular prayer supports spiritual growth, discipline, and provides a framework for the day. It's a moment of reflection, peace, and connection to God amidst the daily routines.





(A L M S G I V I N G) ZAKAT

Zakat is one of Islam's pillars focused on redistributing wealth and reducing poverty. It requires Muslims to give 2.5% of their qualifying wealth each year to those in need.

Zakat could significantly impact global poverty levels. For example, when Muslims globally pay Zakat, it's estimated that billions of pounds (£) is mobilised annually to alleviate poverty.

Zakat purifies wealth by recognising that all things belong to Allah. It strengthens social cohesion by reducing inequality and supporting those in need.





(F A S T I N G) SAWM

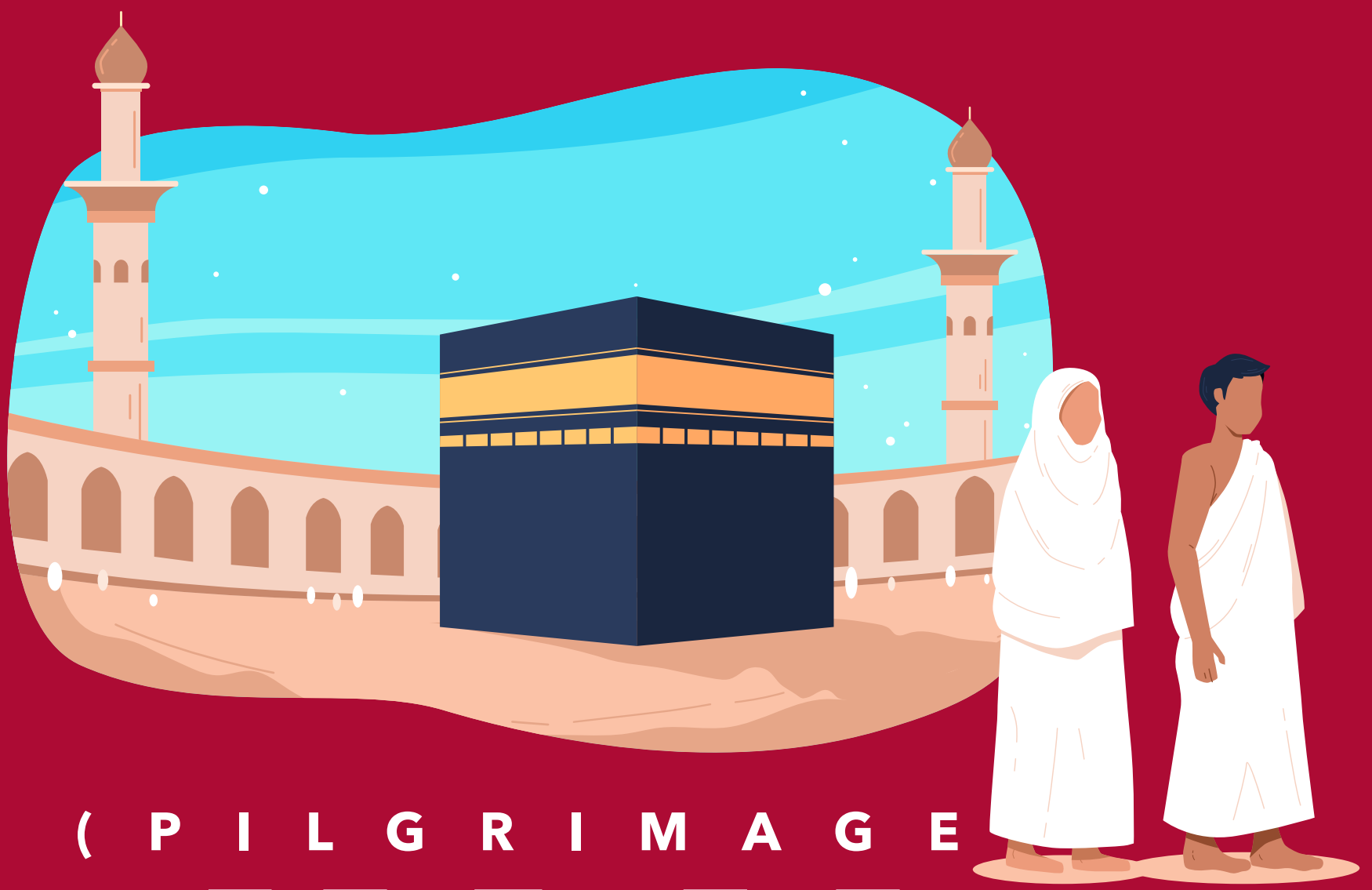
Sawm/Fasting during the month of Ramadan is obligatory for all adult Muslims. The fast runs from dawn to sunset, refraining from food, drink, smoking, and sinful behavior.

It is a time for self-examination and increased religious devotion, intended to teach Muslims about patience, spirituality, humility, and submissiveness to Allah.

Ramadan is observed by Muslims in every country, with the exact start date varying each year based on the lunar calendar. This communal act of fasting unites Muslims globally.

Beyond its spiritual significance, fasting has health benefits, such as improved brain function and detoxification. It also fosters empathy for the less fortunate and builds a sense of community.





(P I L G R I M A G E) HAJJ

The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim must make at least once in their lifetime if they are able to do so. This pilgrimage is a demonstration of the solidarity of the Muslim people, and their submission to Allah. The rituals of the Hajj include circling the Kaaba seven times.

Approximately 2-3 million Muslims perform Hajj each year, making it one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

The Hajj is a profound spiritual journey that signifies unity, equality, and submission to Allah. Pilgrims return with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to their faith.

