

# CONFUCIANISM

## Confucianism

- Concerned primarily with restoring social stability and order
  - What is the basis of a stable, unified, and enduring social order?
- A system of social and ethical philosophy
  - “only when character is cultivated are our families regulated; only when families are regulated are states well governed.”



## Confucianism and higher power

- There is no god in Confucianism, but a force called the TAO. The Tao is also known as the Great Ultimate.
- Confucius is not considered to be a god, but rather a teacher.



## Confucianism and higher power

- Confucius believed that the Tao was the driving force for creation and this flows through all life. From Tao come the Yin and Yang forces, tension and energy. Confucius believed this was the cause of all there was in the universe.
- Most Chinese and East Asians do not consider Confucianism a religion, and may Confucians
- Follow a religion as well as practice Confucianism.



# Five Relationships

- Father-Child
- Ruler-Subject
- Husband-Wife
- Elder Brother-Younger Brother
- Friend-Friend

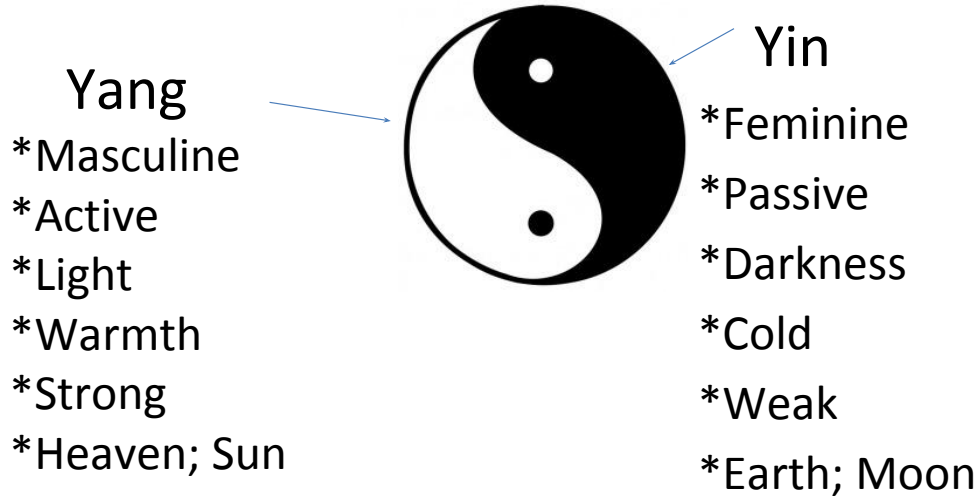


# Confucianism

- Li
  - rituals, norms, institutions, or mores
  - the outer, conforming aspect of Confucianism
- Ren
  - humaneness, love, kindness, benevolence, or virtue
  - the inner, reforming aspect of Confucianism



## Yin and Yang



The universe of opposites – the key is to find the balance

## The Analects



- The single most important Confucian work
- In Chinese Analects means “conversation”
- The focus is on practicalities of interpersonal relationships and the relationship of the role of rulers and ministers to the conduct of government

# HINDUISM

## Teachings

- Individuals have a soul called “Atman”
- Reincarnation – all living things do not have 1 life, but are trapped in an endless cycle of birth and death
- Karma (actions) keep the wheel of life spinning
  - Good Karma leads to a better rebirth
  - Moksha – release from the birth/rebirth cycle
  - Nirvana – what you reach when released from the cycle

# Teachings

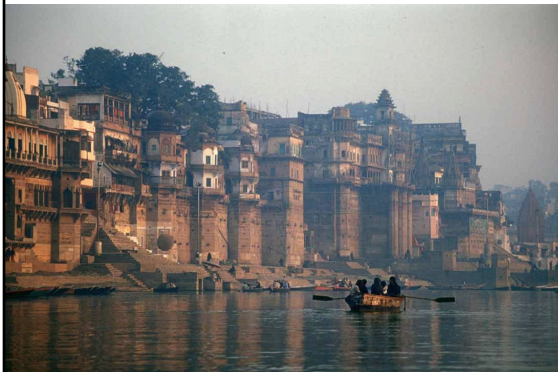
Hindus try to live according to their Dharma  
(code of behavior)

Duty is determined by their Caste (position in  
life)

- 1) Brahmins – Priests and Teachers
- 2) Rulers and Military
- 3) Merchants
- 4) Manual Workers (untouchables)

# Holy Places

Ganges River



Himalayan Mountains



# Festivals

Janmashtami – Birth of Krishna

Diwali- Hindu New Year/Festival of Lights

Holi – Celebrates Krishna's life

Raksha Bandhan – Brother & Sister Celebration



# Three Paths

- Hindus follow three paths:
  - *karmamarga* (works and action),
  - *jnanamarga* (knowledge or philosophy),
  - *bhaktimarga* (devotion to God)

## Four Purposes

- There are four purposes in life that a Hindu follows:
  - *dharma* (fulfill moral, social, and religious duties),
  - *artha* (attain financial and worldly success),
  - *kama* (satisfy desires in moderation), and
  - *moksha* (attain freedom from reincarnation)

## Hindu Holy Writings

The Vedas, or “Books of Knowledge,” are the foremost sacred texts in Hinduism.

These books, written from around 1200 BCE to 100 CE, began with four Vedas, or mantras: Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda.

These expanded over time to include Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.



# Hinduism is:

The World' oldest religion – dates back to 2000 BCE

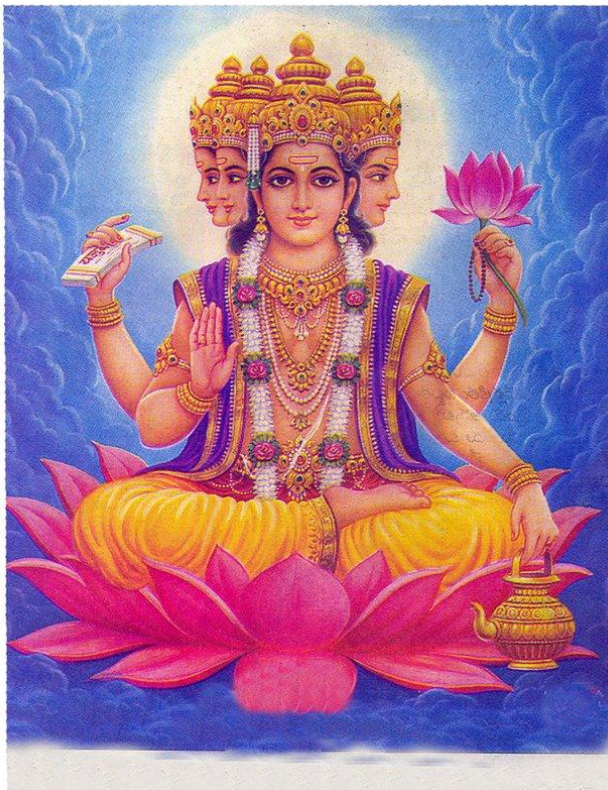
The World's 3rd largest religion with 5 million+ followers

Has no single founder or leader

Has no single book of teachings

Is both Monotheist (believe in 1 god) and Polytheist (believe in many gods)

Brahman is the Supreme Spirit with many incarnations



## Brahma the creator

### **Brahma, the Creator:**

Brahma is the creator of the universe and of all beings, as depicted in the Hindu cosmology.

The Vedas, the oldest and the holiest of Hindu scriptures, are attributed to Brahma, and thus Brahma is regarded as the father of dharma.

He is not to be confused with Brahman which is a general term for the Supreme Being or Almighty God. Although Brahma is one of the Trinity, his popularity is no match to that of Vishnu and Shiva. Brahma is to be found to exist more in scriptures than in homes and temples. In fact it is hard to find a temple dedicated to Brahma.



## Vishnu the sustainer

The peace-loving deity of the Hindu Trinity, Vishnu is the Preserver or Sustainer of life with his steadfast principles of order, righteousness and truth.

When these values are under threat, Vishnu emerges out of his transcendence to restore peace and order on earth.

Vishnu's earthly incarnations have 10 major avatars. The devout followers of Vishnu are called Vaishnavas, and his consort is Lakshmi.

Vishnu is popularly worshipped as Lord Venkateshwara in the southern India.



## Shiva the destroyer

The most powerful and fascinating deity in Hinduism, who represents death and dissolution.

One of the godheads in the Hindu Trinity, and known by many names - Mahadeva, Pashupati, Nataraja, Vishwanath, Bhole Nath - Shiva is perhaps the most complex of Hindu deities.

Hindus recognize this by putting his shrine in the temple separate from those of other deities.

# BUDDHISM

## **The Historical Buddha**

- Originated in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE with Siddhartha Gautama
- After experiencing the Four Sights (old age, sickness, death, and a begging monk), Gautama left his family and became a wandering monk
- While meditating under a Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, he grasped the Four Noble Truths and became Buddha (Enlightened One)

# Beliefs

- Buddhists believe in **reincarnation** but as a reconfiguration of basic energies, not as self
- The **Pancasila or Five Precepts**, are fundamental ethical principles that all Buddhists should follow  
They are:
  - Do not harm any living being
  - Do not take anything when not given
  - No sensual misconduct
  - No false speech
  - Do not lose control thru intoxication.
- Liberation is attained by embracing the Four Noble Truths

## The Four Noble Truths:

- Suffering is universal
- Craving for things that will not last is the root of suffering
- Nirvana is the end of suffering and reincarnation
- In order to reach Nirvana, one must follow the Noble Eightfold Path

## The Noble Eightfold Path

- Right View
- Right Intention
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Concentration

## Sacred Texts

- ***Dhammapada*** (Pali canon): Recorded conversations of the Buddha in the Pali Indian dialect.
- ***The Tipitaka*** (Three Baskets): A collection of Buddha's sayings, the monastic rule, and a philosophical system (most important text in Theravada Buddhism).
- ***Bardo Thödol or Tibetan Book of the Dead***: Describes the consciousness experience of the interval between death and rebirth.

# Worship

- A Buddhist devotion to the religion is a natural part of their life that can include their diet, job, trade, or profession.
- They conduct daily meditations, give offerings at shrines, temples, or monasteries.
- Many Buddhists have shrine rooms in their homes.
- As part of their devotions, Buddhists recite the three refuges or the **Three Jewels (Buddha, Dharma; truth or teachings, and Sangha; monastic community)**, some **Buddhists also chant.**
- Practicing meditation frees the mind from everyday emotions.

# Symbolism

**Buddhapada:** Buddha's footprints are early representatives of the Buddha. They are highly revered in all Buddhist countries. They symbolize many things. The most popular meaning is the grounding of the transcendent.

**The Color Yellow:** During Gautama's lifetime, saffron was found to be the cheapest and easiest way to dye cloth. Criminals were designated to wear this color to signify their state. Gautama Buddha chose to wear this color as a sign of humility and separation from materialistic society. It has the highest symbolic value in Buddhism.

# JUDAISM

## **Judaism is...**

- “A 4000 year old tradition with ideas about what it means to be human and how to make the world a holy place”  
(Rabbi Harold Kushner, *To Life*)
- A “covenant relationship” between God and the Hebrew people
- A celebration and sanctification of life
- A faith, a people, a way of life...

## **A 4000 year old tradition...**

- The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (“Israel”) – origins of the Hebrew people (more than 3800 years ago)
- Enslaved in ancient Egypt and freed by Moses (more than 3300 years ago)
- Hebrew monarchy in the “Promised Land” (The Land of Israel), ends 6th century BCE

## **As a faith, Jews Believe...**

- In one God, creator of the universe, personal but non-corporeal (has no body)
- In prophets of old – especially Moses, through whom Torah was revealed to the Hebrew people



## **As a people, Jews are...**

- A nation in Diaspora (dispersed)
- United by a common heritage (an “ethnic” religion), divided into contemporary sects:
  - Orthodox
  - Reformed
  - Conservative

## **How does Judaism sanctify time?**

### **The Jewish Holidays:**

- High Holidays:
  - Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
  - Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Sukkot, the “Festival of Booths” (fall harvest festival)
- Simchat Torah – celebrating Torah
- Chanukah, the “Festival of Lights”

## More Holy Days...

- Purim (“Lots”) – a carnival (commemorates events told in book of Esther)
- Pesach (“Passover”) – commemorates the exodus from Egypt (events told in Exodus)
- Shavuot (“weeks,” Pentecost) – commemorates receipt of Torah at Sinai
- Other, minor festivals
- Shabbat (Sabbath, 7<sup>th</sup> day, on Saturday) – the “Day of Rest”

## How is Judaism related to Christianity?

- Judaism predates Christianity – it is the foundation of Christianity but is *not* a part of it
- Jesus was Jewish, as were his followers and the Apostles
- Jews do not believe that Jesus was anything more than a good and wise man who lived and died 2000 years ago – Jews still await their messiah
- The Jewish messiah would not be divine. He would be a political figure who restores the Hebrew monarchy and causes peace to reign on Earth

# Jewish Symbols: Magen David

- Star of David
- Was on the shields of David's warriors
- Symbol on the Flag of the state of Israel
- Used throughout the world as a clear and unique identifying symbol of Jews and Judaism

# Jewish Symbols: Menorah

- Seven (or nine) branched candleholder
- One of the oldest Jewish symbols—one of the ritual objects described in the Torah
- Today the nine branched menorah is used in celebration of Chanukah
- The seven branched menorah is the authentic ancient symbol (one for each of the 6 days of creation and 1 for sabbath)

# CHRISTIANITY

## What is Christianity?

- A diverse, 2000 year old religion
- Based on the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus
  - Believed to be the Christ (messiah, savior) by his followers (thus called “Christians”)

## Major Divisions

- Roman Catholic  
–1.1 billion
- Eastern Orthodox  
–217 million
- Protestant  
–365 million
- Anglican  
–80 million

## Jesus' Teachings

- Focused on the kingdom of God
  - Standards of human conduct
  - Merciful God—how people should treat each other → Golden Rule
  - Personal God --“Our Father”
- Used stories and parables to teach
- Known as miracle worker and faith healer
- Religious and social reformer
  - Accepted a variety of people
  - Go above and beyond the letter of the law
- Preached forgiveness of sin over punishment for sin
  - Turn the other cheek

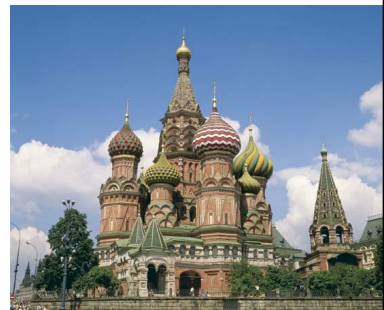
# Catholicism

- Pope is supreme spiritual leader and Vatican head of state
  - Vatican City is an independent country surrounded by Rome
  - St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square
- First pope was Leo I (officially), or St. Peter



# Orthodoxy

- Literally means “right teaching or right worship”
  - Derived from two Greek words: *orthos* (right) and *doxa* (teaching or worship)
- Followers believe that there were false teachings and divisions in early Christian times
  - Threatened the identity and purity of the Church
  - Followers believe the Orthodox Church carefully guards the truth against all error and schism
- Believe in saint worship, Eucharist, confession of sins, baptism



# Protestantism

- Movement from 16<sup>th</sup> century “Reformation”
  - To reform the (Catholic) church
    - Corruption, leadership, authority, etc.
  - Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox
  - Brought to America in various forms
- Usually recognize only 2 sacraments of baptism and communion
  - 7 in Catholicism
  - No saints, no rosary, no pope, etc.

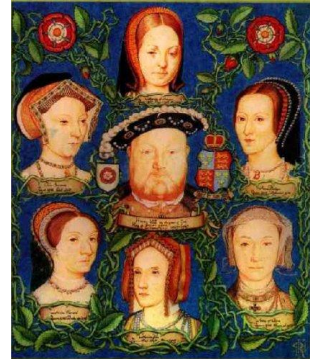


## Protestant Groups

- Lutheran
- Church of England, Anglican, Episcopal
- Presbyterian, Congregational
- Baptist
- Methodist
- Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
- Pentecostal
- Shaker
- Mennonite
- Amish
- Quaker
- Separatists
- Brethren (Puritan)
- Christian Scientist
- Jehovah’s Witness
- Seventh Day Adventist
- Unification Church

# Anglican

- Began in 6<sup>th</sup> century England
  - Followed Luther's protest
- King Henry VIII spent most of his reign challenging the authority of Rome
  - Divorce was just one issue
- Spread by English colonization and missionaries
- Do not follow Pope's authority
  - Led by bishops
  - Now ordain women priests
- *Book of Common Prayer*
- Often called Episcopal



# Scripture

- Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible)
- New Testament (written after Jesus' death, by his followers)
  - Four *gospels* ("good words") about the birth, life, teaching, acts, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Written by Mark, Matthew, Luke & John
  - The Book of Acts of the apostles – earliest history of the developing church
  - *Epistles* ("letters") of Paul addressed to the churches they founded and led throughout the Mediterranean
  - The Book of Revelation – of John - a vision of the end of time, or the Apocalypse.



## Beliefs and Customs

- Baptism: outward sign of commitment to Jesus
- Eucharist (communion): symbolic meal of Jesus' last meal with disciples; taken in thanks and celebration
- Trinity: belief in God as the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; not 3 different gods
- Saints: celebrated people who led good lives, often associated with miracles

## Christian Holy Days

Two major seasons in the Christian calendar:

- Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus
- Easter – commemorating the resurrection of Christ
- Christmas:
  - Advent (four weeks leading up to Christmas day)
  - Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>)
  - Epiphany (the “twelfth day of Christmas”)

## More Christian Holy Days

- Easter: (early spring, date varies)
  - Ash Wednesday and Lent (40 days before Easter, a period of sacrifice and spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter)
  - Holy Week including:
    - Palm Sunday (Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem)
    - Maundy Thursday (communion meal/Last Supper)
    - Good Friday (Jesus' Passion and crucifixion)
    - Easter Sunday (celebrating the resurrection)
- Pentecost: the 50<sup>th</sup> day (seven weeks) after Easter (commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles)

ISLAM

# Islam and Muslims

- The religion is called Islam.
- The people who practice Islam are called Muslims.

## Two Main Branches of Islam

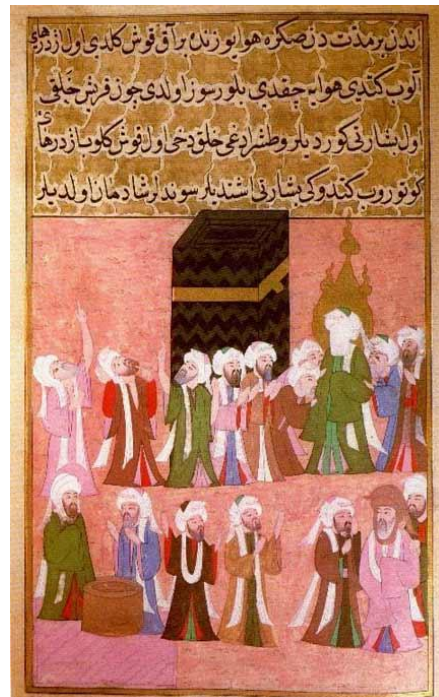
- There are two main branches of Islam today
- Sunni recognize the male heirs of the first 4 elected (*according to Muhammad's instruction*) caliphs (*or spiritual heads*) after Muhammad's death
- Shiite recognize the decedents of *only* the 4th caliphs—Ali (M's son-in-law & cousin), the only true descendent of Muhammad

## Muhammad: The Prophet of Islam

- A prophet is a messenger of God.
- Muhammad was born in 570 AD.
- His parents died when he was 7.
- Liked to go off by himself and pray in the desert.
- He heard the voice of the angel Gabriel telling him to proclaim the one true God.

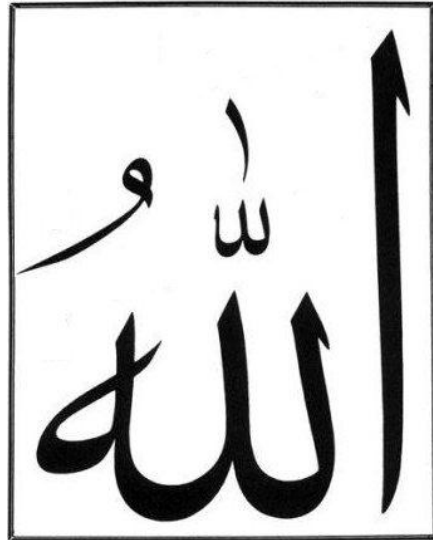
## Muhammad

- Muslims do not believe that the face of Muhammad should be shown.
- He is often depicted as in the picture on the right.



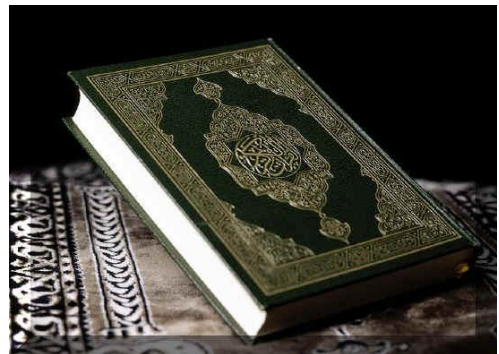
# Allah

- Allah is the name of God to Muslims.
- You will never see an image of Allah. Muslims believe that He does not resemble any other form in creation in any way.”



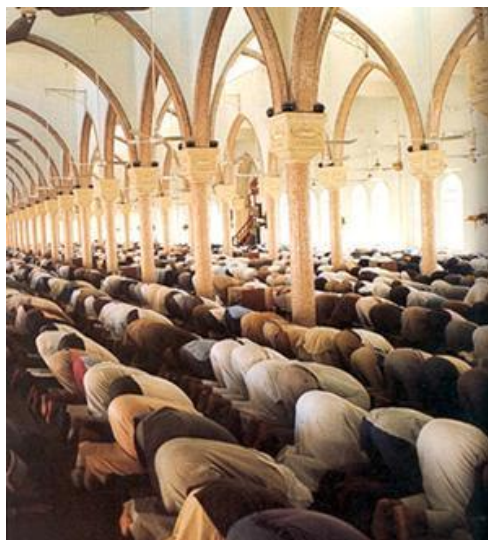
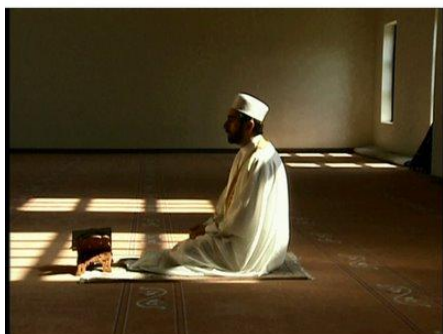
# The Qur'an

- Holy Book of Islam
- Written in Arabic
- Muslims believe that Allah revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad.
- Many Muslims memorize the Qur'an
- The Qur'an has the rules Muslims live by.



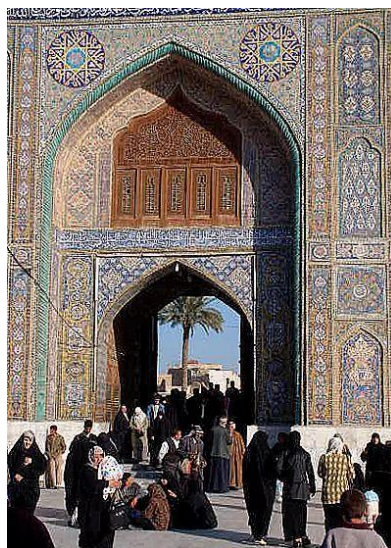
# Practices of Islam

- Muslims pray 5 times a day



# A Mosque

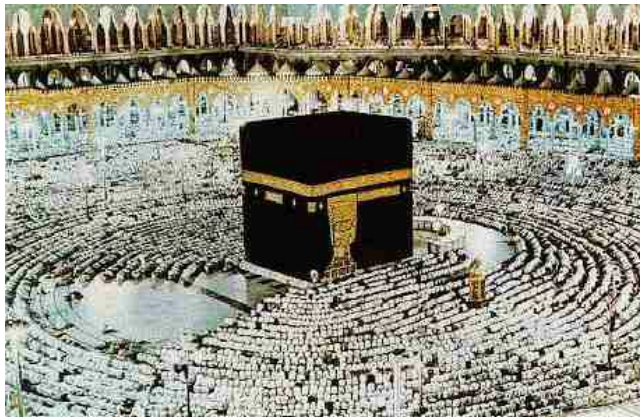
- A Mosque is the place of worship for Muslims.



# The Five Pillars of Islam

- 1. Faith: There is only one God, and Muhammad is the Prophet
- 2. Prayer: Five times a day
- 3. Sharing: All Muslims pay a tax to help the poor
- 4. Fasting: Not eating or drinking during daylight during the month of Ramadan
- 5. Pilgrimage (Hajj): All Muslims want to make a pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca once in their lifetimes.

## The Hajj: The pilgrimage to Mecca



# Ramadan

- Ramadan - the most important holiday
- Muslims fast from sun up till sundown during the month of Ramadan
- Ramadan celebrates Muhammad receiving the Qur'an from Allah

## Muslims View Other Religions:

- Muslims believe that God had previously revealed Himself to the earlier prophets of the Jews and Christians
- Muslims therefore accept the teachings of both the Jewish Torah and the Christian Gospels
- They believe that Islam is the perfection of the religion