

Islam, what is it?

A review of true Islam in the text of Quran

This article is a first in a series of articles that will try to explain and clarify the misconceptions that exist in today's world regarding some of the most controversial religious subjects. We will examine all the verses that contain any word that is a derivative of the subject area. In this article we review Islam in the text of Quran.

In this article, we will present a definition of Islam according to the text of Quran, and we will demonstrate that Islam and religion are the most abused words in today's world. People judge Islam and Muslims, without having smallest notion of what it means to be a Muslim.

Do not confuse Islam with what so-called religious leaders, political leaders, or ignorant people (in the media, academic, and religious and social groups) are portraying as Islam. Do not allow the Islam-o-phobic propaganda blind you to the true meaning of Islam. People falsify, distort, and misrepresent the truth for their own interests. Study and understand the meaning of Islam in the text of Quran. And do not believe anyone who is in conflict with the teachings of the Quran about Islam. When many, who believe that they are Muslims, do not know what it means to be a Muslim, how can we expect others that only learned about Islam and Muslims by listening to ignorant political, social, and religious leaders, or listening to the biased and prejudiced newscasts, or reading unfair and predisposed articles; have any notions of what really true Islam is? Leave your premeditated judgments aside for the moment, read this article without any preconceived notions, and then think about the possibility of deceit and fraud on behalf of people who depict Islam and religion as anything but the way to a better life for everyone?

The word "*Muslim*" was first used by Abraham. In the Quran 22:78 "it is the cult of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you Muslims"

Muslim is a noun (or may be used as an adjective) derived from the word "Islam" and it means someone who has accepted Islam (as his/her religion).

If Abraham named himself and his followers "Muslim", then he must have accepted Islam as his religion, i.e. Abraham's religion was Islam and he was a Muslim.

The word "*Islam*" means surrender, submit, or bow to God's will and no one else. No one has the right, or deserves to be devotedly obeyed and followed except God. Beside God, no one's instructions (verbal and oral) are worthy of unquestioned obedience.

There are many verses that clearly indicate that Islam is the religion (i.e. submission to will of God). All the prophets have professed that they are inspired by God; they have been messengers of God, they have revealed God's commandments to humanity; they all submitted to God's will, and they were Muslims and had accepted Islam as their religion.

God commandments are concise and clear in the Torah, Bible, and the Quran, and each one confirms the previous one. His commandments are not burdensome, and no difficulties are imposed by them.

In the Quran 42:13 God affirms that "The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - the which We have sent by inspiration to thee - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein:" If we take into account that Abraham's religion was Islam, and he and his followers were Muslims, then according to this verse all of God's prophets had accepted Islam as their religion, and they were Muslims.

This verse also commands everyone to "Make no division in religion". This is a command to everyone, regardless of their faith or the Scripture they follow. But unfortunately, for years people have been killing each other in the name of religion. Look at the crusades during 1095-1291 and in the 16th century, which in one shape or another, still continues to this date. More recently look at the conflicts between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland, or Sunnis and Shias in Iraq. These are a few examples of people who dispute, create conflicts, and wage wars against each other in the name of religion. How could they call themselves followers of God, when they are directly disobeying God's command and create division in religion? We are all forgetting about the essence of religion!

Islam is submission to God, and it is the religion of all of God's prophets. They all have said that: They are inspired by God; they convey God's commandments to mankind; and they submit to his will. Therefore, the followers of any prophet should also submit to God's will and obey his commandments. Submission to God implies submitting to no one else, i.e. no matter what the source of writing, or a sermon, or a lecture is; as long as it is completely according to God's commandments, we should accept it; and if it is in disagreement with God's commandments, it does not matter who it is from, we should ignore and discard it.

To clear any misconception, a true Muslim is defined as one who believes in God, one who submits, surrenders, and bows to God's will. One should submit to God with all his/her heart and soul, as it is mentioned in the Bible (New Testament), Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27 "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind". In the Bible 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not burdensome" implies that loving God includes keeping his commandments. And we should keep God's commandment with happiness from the bottom of our hearts with happiness, honesty, and sincerity.

In the Quran 2:256 God affirms that "There is no compulsion in religion" which implies that anyone who accepts religion (Islam), should be committed with all his/her heart and soul. And be candor and sincere in his submission to God (He knows are intentions and thoughts). One can not submit to God by force.

What people call themselves or what they name themselves are irrelevant. Any Christian, Jewish person, Buddhist, or for that matter anyone else with any other name, that submits to God's will has embraced Islam and is a Muslim.

This definition, by no means contradicts the fact that everyone should practice his/her own faith's details and rituals. In the Quran 5:48 God affirms that "...To each among you have we prescribed a law and an open way. If Allah had so willed, He would have made you a single people, but (His plan is) to test you in what He hath given you: so strive as in a race in all virtues." which implies that although every group has the same religion, i.e. submission to God (Islam), but everyone should practice his/her own faith's details and rituals, and prove their devotion to God with different rituals and practices.

Followings are a brief synopsis of the verses, which contain the word “Islam” or any of its derivatives such as “Muslim”:

God affirms what Islam is: 3:19, 3:83, 3:85, 11:14, 27:81, 31:22, 39:22

God’s declarations: 2:112, 3:80, 3:85, 4:125, 5:3, 6:125, 9:74, 15:2, 16:81, 22:34, 22:78, 31:22, 33:35, 43:69, 61:7

God’s rewards and gifts to Muslims: 2:112, 16:89, 16:102, 49:17, 31:22, 33:35, 39:22

Mohammad confesses that he is a Muslim (by God’s commands), and invites people to Islam: 2:136, 2:208, 3:20, 3:64, 3:84, 6:14, 6:71, 6:163, 27:91, 39:12, 40:66

God commands to Mohammad regarding Islam and Muslims (submission or submitted): 2:112, 6:71, 21:108, 22:34, 30:53, 39:12

Jesus, his disciples, and Christians submit to God’s will (in Islam): 2:136 3:52, 3:64, 3:84, 4:67, 5:44, 5:111, 28:53, 29:46

Moses, Jewish people, and Pharaoh submit to God’s will (in Islam): 2:136, 3:64, 3:67, 3:84, 5:44, 7:126, 28:53, 29:46, 10:90

Abraham, Ishmael, and Isaac submit to God’s will (in Islam): 2:128, 2:131, 2:136, 3:67, 3:84, 10:84, 10:90, 22:78, 51:36

Jacob, his sons, and Joseph submit to God’s will (in Islam): 2:132, 2:133, 2:136, 3:84, 12:101

Solomon submits to God’s will (in Islam): 27:42, 27:44

Noah submit to God’s will (in Islam): 10:72

Day of Judgment, the Hereafter, and death in Islam: 3:85, 3:102, 16:87, 37:26, 39:54, 43:69

Miscellaneous verses regarding Islam: 46:15, 66:5, 72:14

Islam derivatives, used as surrendering in cases of war or submitting to someone other than God: 27:31, 27:38, 48:16, 37:103, 49:14

Let us review these verses.

Verses that contain the word “Islam” or any of its derivatives such as “Muslim”

In 2:112 Mohammad answers the claim that only Jews and/or Christians can enter paradise.

“Nay, whoever submits His whole self to God and is a doer of good, He will get his reward with his Lord; on such shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve”

2:128 is about Abraham’s prayer to God, when he and Ishmael laid the foundation of Kaaba (The Sacred House).

“Our Lord! make of us *Muslims*, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our offspring a people *Muslim*, bowing to Thy (will); and show us our place for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful.”

2:131 is about the conversation between God and Abraham

“When his Lord said to him, Be a *Muslim*, he said: I submit myself to the Lord of the worlds.”

2:132 explains what Jacob told his 12 sons. Jacob’s father was Isaac, who was one of Abraham’s sons. Later in life, he changed his name to Israel, per God’s command.

“And this was the legacy that Abraham left to his sons, and so did Jacob; “Oh my sons! God hath chosen the Faith for you; then die not except in the Faith of *Islam*.”

2:133 is the conversation between Jacob and his sons on his deathbed.

“Were ye witnesses when death appeared before Jacob? Behold, he said to his sons: “What will ye worship after me?” They said: “We shall worship Thy God and the God of thy fathers, of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac, the one (True) God: To Him we bow (in *Islam*).”

2:136 (very similar to 3:84) is God’s command to the believers and followers of Mohammad.

“Say ye: “We believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to God (in *Islam*).”

2:208 is another command to the believers that: they should enter Islam with all their heart and soul, and warning them of Satan’s enmities.

“O ye who believe! Enter into *Islam* whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one; for he is to you an avowed enemy.”

3:19 declares that the religion before God is Islam, and the people of the books (Christians and Jews) are aware of this fact

“The Religion before God is *Islam* (submission to His Will): Nor did the People of the Book dissent therefrom except through envy of each other, after

knowledge had come to them. But if any deny the Signs of God, God is swift in calling to account."

3:20 God tells Mohammad to say that: he has embraced Islam, and to invite everyone to Islam. And his duty is to convey the message

"So if they dispute with thee, say: "I have submitted My whole self to God and so have those who follow me." And say to the People of the Book and to those who are unlearned: "Do ye (also) submit yourselves?" If they do, they are in right guidance, but if they turn back, Thy duty is to convey the Message; and in God's sight are (all) His servants."

3:52 (similar to 5:111) explains how the disciples of Jesus replied to his question.

"When Jesus found Unbelief on their part He said: "Who will be My helpers to (the work of) God?" Said the disciples: "We are God's helpers: We believe in God, and do thou bear witness that we are *Muslims*."

In 3:64 God commands Mohammad to tell the followers of Jesus (the Bible, New Testament) and Moses (the Torah, Old Testament)

"Say: "O People of the Book! come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but God; that we associate no partners with him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than God." If then they turn back, say ye: "Bear witness that we (at least) are *Muslims* (bowing to God's Will)."

3:67 God continues his command to Mohammad (from 3:64), and talk about Abraham. That he was neither a Christian nor a Jew, but he was a Muslim.

"Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to God's (Which is *Islam*), and he joined not gods with God."

3:80 is explaining the fact that God will not order anyone to worship any angel or prophet

"Nor would he instruct you to take angels and prophets for Lords and patrons. What! would he bid you to unbelief after ye have bowed your will (To God in *Islam*)?"

3:83 God is telling that all the heavenly and earthly creatures are have accepted Islam.

"Do they seek for other than the Religion of God? while all creatures in the heavens and on earth have, willing or unwilling, bowed to His Will (Accepted *Islam*), and to Him shall they all be brought back."

3:84 (very similar to 2:136) is God's command to the believers and followers of Mohammad.

"Say: "We believe in God, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to God do we bow our will (in *Islam*)."

3:85 God tells everyone that he only accepts people's religion, as it was explained in the previous verse (3:84) which is: Believe in God, His revelations; Believe in all the prophets and their books, and make no distinction between them; and submit to God's will.

"If anyone desires a religion other than *Islam* (submission to God), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good)."

3:102 God is warning believers that they should not die in disobedience, i.e. they should stay obedient to God forever.

"O ye who believe! Fear God as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of *Islam*."

4:125 God expresses that he is pleased with any Muslim, who does good deeds, and follows Abraham way

"Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to God, does good, and follows the way of Abraham the true in Faith? For God did take Abraham for a friend."

5:3 God telling the followers of Mohammad that he completed the religion for them, and chose Islam as their religion

"Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than God; that which hath been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by being gored to death; that which hath been (partly) eaten by a wild animal; unless ye are able to slaughter it (in due form); that which is sacrificed on stone (altars); (forbidden) also is the division (of meat) by raffling with arrows: that is impiety. This day have those who reject faith given up all hope of your religion: yet fear them not but fear Me. This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you *Islam* as your religion. But if any is forced by hunger, with no inclination to transgression, God is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

5:44 Indicates that there is guidance and light in the Torah, and the prophets that have used Torah (such as Moses, David, Solomon, etc.) were all submitted to God's will.

"It was We who revealed the law (to Moses): therein was guidance and light. By its standard have been judged the Jews, by the prophets who bowed (as in *Islam*) to God's will, by the rabbis and the doctors of law: for to them was entrusted the protection of God's book, and they were witnesses thereto: therefore fear not men, but fear me, and sell not my signs for a miserable price. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what God hath revealed, they are (no better than) Unbelievers."

5:111 (similar to 3:52) explains how the disciples of Jesus replied to his question.

"And behold! I inspired the disciples to have faith in Me and Mine Apostle: they said, 'We have faith, and do thou bear witness that we bow to God as *Muslims*'".

6:14 God orders Mohammad to say his faith is Islam, and in his community he is the first who owed to will of God

"Say: "Shall I take for my protector any other than God, the Maker of the heavens and the earth? And He it is that feedeth but is not fed." Say: "Nay! but I am commanded to be the first of those who bow to God (in *Islam*), and be not thou of the company of those who join gods with God."

6:71 Mohammad Talks about God's Guidance being the only guidance, and the fact that he has been directed by God to submit to his will

"Say: "Shall we indeed call on others besides God,- things that can do us neither good nor harm,- and turn on our heels after receiving guidance from God? - like one whom the evil ones have made into a fool, wandering bewildered through the earth, his friends calling, come to us', (vainly) guiding him to the path." Say: "God's guidance is the (only) guidance, and we have been directed to submit ourselves to the Lord of the worlds;"

6:125 God allows people to embrace Islam (based on God's rules and persons' actions and thoughts)

"Those whom God (in His plan) willeth to guide,- He openeth their breast to *Islam*; those whom He willeth to leave straying,- He maketh their breast close and constricted, as if they had to climb up to the skies: thus doth God (heap) the penalty on those who refuse to believe."

6:163 Mohammad tells Arabs, the he is ordered to be the first Muslim (amongst them)

"No partner hath He: this am I commanded, and I am the first of those who bow to His will."

7:126 Pharaoh's magicians answer him, and pray to God that they die as a Muslim

"But thou dost wreak thy vengeance on us simply because we believed in the Signs of our Lord when they reached us! Our Lord! pour out on us patience and constancy, and take our souls unto thee as *Muslims* (who bow to thy will)!"

9:74 the unbelievers and Hypocrites who spoke blasphemy, after they have accepted Islam, should repent

"They swear by God that they said nothing (evil), but indeed they uttered blasphemy, and they did it after accepting *Islam*; and they meditated a plot which they were unable to carry out: this revenge of theirs was (their) only return for the bounty with which God and His Apostle had enriched them! If they repent, it will be best for them; but if they turn back (to their evil ways), God will punish them with a grievous penalty in this life and in the Hereafter: They shall have none on earth to protect or help them."

10:72 Noah tells his people that he has been commanded to be a Muslim

"But if ye turn back, (consider): no reward have I asked of you: my reward is only due from God, and I have been commanded to be of those who submit to God's will (in *Islam*)."

10:84 Moses tells his people to trust god if they are Muslims (submit to his will)

"Moses said: "O my people! If ye do (really) believe in God, then in Him put

your trust if ye submit (your will to His).""

10:90 after following Moses and the Israelite into the sea, Pharaoh, which was overwhelmed by the flood confesses that he has now become a Muslim

"We took the Children of Israel across the sea: Pharaoh and his hosts followed them in insolence and spite. At length, when overwhelmed with the flood, he said: "I believe that there is no god except Him Whom the Children of Israel believe in: I am of those who submit (to God in *Islam*).""

11:14 When it has been proven that their gods or for that matter anyone else cannot make even one verse like the verse in the Quran, will they Submit to God afterward?

"If then they (your false gods) answer not your (call), know ye that this revelation is sent down (replete) with the knowledge of God, and that there is no god but He! will ye even then submit (to *Islam*)?"

12:101 Joseph prayers after his parents (Jacob and his wife) enter his office in Egypt

"O my Lord! Thou hast indeed bestowed on me some power, and taught me something of the interpretation of dreams and events,- O Thou Creator of the heavens and the earth! Thou art my Protector in this world and in the Hereafter. Take Thou my soul (at death) as one submitting to Thy will (as a *Muslim*), and unite me with the righteous."

15:2 expresses a wish of some unbelievers

"Again and again will those who disbelieve, wish that they had bowed (to God's will) in *Islam*."

16:81 God completes his favors, so people submit to his will

"It is God Who made out of the things He created, some things to give you shade; of the hills He made some for your shelter; He made you garments to protect you from heat, and coats of mail to protect you from your (mutual) violence. Thus does He complete His favors on you, that ye may bow to His Will (in *Islam*)."

16:87 referring to day of judgment

"That Day shall they (openly) show (their) submission to God; and all their inventions shall leave them in the lurch"

16:89 God gives Muslims a good present, the Quran

"One day We shall raise from all Peoples a witness against them, from amongst themselves: and We shall bring thee as a witness against these (thy people): and We have sent down to thee the Book explaining all things, a Guide, a Mercy, and Glad Tidings to Muslims."

16:102 the Quran is a guide and a good present for Muslims (so believers did exist even before Quran)

"Say, the Holy Spirit has brought the revelation from thy Lord in Truth, in order to strengthen those who believe, and as a Guide and Glad Tidings to *Muslims*."

21:108 God tells Mohammad, to invite people to Islam (submit to his will)

"Say: "What has come to me by inspiration is that your God is One God: will ye therefore bow to His Will (in *Islam*)?""

22:34 God is telling everyone to submit to his will (in Islam)

"To every people did We appoint rites (of sacrifice), that they might celebrate the name of God over the sustenance He gave them from animals (fit for food). But your God is One God: submit then your wills to Him (in *Islam*): and give thou the good news to those who humble themselves,"

22:78 declares that no difficulties are imposed in religion; and that Abraham named people Muslims, even before the Quran

"And strive in His cause as ye ought to strive, (with sincerity and under discipline). He has chosen you, and has imposed no difficulties on you in religion; it is the cult of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you *Muslims*, both before and in this (Revelation); that the Apostle may be a witness for you, and ye be witnesses for mankind! So establish regular Prayer, give regular Charity, and hold fast to God! He is your Protector - the Best to protect and the Best to help!"

27:31 Solomon writes Queen of Sheba and asks her

"Behave not arrogantly towards me, but come to me in submission."

27:42,44 Queen of Sheba admits that she and Solomon have submitted to God (in Islam)

"So when she arrived, she was asked, "Is this thy throne?" She said, "It was just like this; and knowledge was bestowed on us in advance of this, and we have submitted to God (in *Islam*)." ... She said: "O my Lord! I have indeed wronged my soul: I do (now) submit (in *Islam*), with Solomon, to the Lord of the Worlds."

27:81 (similar to 30:53) God tells Mohammad that only people who believe in God's signs will bow to god in Islam.

"Nor can you guide the blind out of their straying. The only ones who will hear you are those who believe in our revelations, and decide to be submitters."

27:91 God tells Mohammad to declare that he was commanded to be on of the people who bows to God in Islam

"For me, I have been commanded to serve the Lord of this city, Him Who has sanctified it and to Whom (belong) all things: and I am commanded to be of those who bow in *Islam* to God's Will,"

28:53 those who believe in the Book before the Quran say: Indeed we have been Muslim before the Quran

"And when it is recited to them, they say: "We believe therein, for it is the Truth from our Lord: indeed we have been *Muslims* (bowing to God's Will) from before this."

29:46 orders Mohammad to tell Christians and Jews that: the same thing has been revealed to him and them, and they all submit to one God

"And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, except with means better (than mere disputation), unless it be with those of them who inflict wrong (and injury): but say, "We believe in the revelation which has come down to us and in that which came down to you; Our God and your God is one; and it is to Him we bow (in *Islam*).""

30:53 (similar to 27:81) God tells Mohammad

"Nor can you guide the blind out of their straying. You can only be heard by those who believe in our revelations, and decide to become submitters."

31:22 Who has embraced Islam and does good deed, has grasped to a trustworthy handle

"Whoever submits his whole self to God, and is a doer of good, has grasped indeed the most trustworthy hand-hold: and with God rests the End and Decision of (all) affairs."

33:35 Telling about all the people that will be rewarded

"For *Muslim* men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women, for men and women who are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in Charity, for men and women who fast (and deny themselves), for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in God's praise,- for them has God prepared forgiveness and great reward."

37:26 In the day of Judgment the wrong doers submit

"Nay, but that day they shall submit (to Judgment);"

39:12 Mohammad is saying that God has commanded him to be the foremost Muslim

"And I am commanded to be the first of those who bow to God in *Islam*."

39:22 God is saying that enlightened people embrace Islam

"Is one whose heart God has opened to *Islam*, so that he has received Enlightenment from God, (no better than one hard-hearted)? Woe to those whose hearts are hardened against celebrating the praises of God! they are manifestly wandering (in error)!"

39:54 Repent and become a Muslim before it is too late

"Turn ye to our Lord (in repentance) and bow to His (Will), before the Penalty comes on you: after that ye shall not be helped."

40:66 Mohammad has been commanded to embrace Islam

"Say: "I have been forbidden to invoke those whom ye invoke besides God,- seeing that the Clear Signs have come to me from my Lord; and I have been commanded to bow (in *Islam*) to the Lord of the Worlds.""

41:33 God expresses his satisfaction

"Who is better in speech than one who calls (men) to God, works righteousness, and says, "I am of those who bow in *Islam*"?"

43:69 God is telling Muslims that they don't have nothing to worry, and they will enter heaven

"(Being) those who have believed in Our Signs and bowed (their wills to Ours) in *Islam*."

46:15 A prayer for people who wish to go to paradise

"We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents: In pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the (child) to his weaning is (a period of) thirty months. At length, when he reaches the age of full strength and attains forty years, he says, "O my Lord! Grant me that I may be grateful for Thy favor which Thou has bestowed upon me, and upon both my parents, and that I may work righteousness such as Thou mayest approve; and be gracious to me in my issue. Truly have I turned to Thee and truly do I bow (to Thee) in *Islam*.""

49:14 The Arab say we submit, but what they really mean is that they submit to Muslims not to God (or in another interpretation, they just say that they submit, while in reality they have not submitted to God)

"The wandering Arabs say: We believe. Say (unto them, O Muhammad): Ye believe not, but rather say "We submit," for the faith hath not yet entered into your hearts. Yet, if ye obey Allah and His messenger, He will not withhold from you aught of (the reward of) your deeds. Lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

49:17 God tells Mohammad, what to answer Arabs that keep telling him that they have done him a favor by embracing Islam

"They impress on thee as a favor that they have embraced *Islam*. Say, "Count not your *Islam* as a favor upon me: Nay, God has conferred a favor upon you that He has guided you to the faith, if ye be true and sincere."

51:36 The three honored guests of Abraham tells him about the fact that, they only found one house with Muslims in it

"But We found not there any just (*Muslim*) persons except in one house:"

61:7 Talking about people who make up lies about God

"Who doth greater wrong than one who invents falsehood against God, even as he is being invited to *Islam*? And God guides not those who do wrong."

66:5 Mohammad's wife are being told what could happen if he divorce her

"It may be, if he divorced you (all), that God will give him in exchange consorts better than you,- who submit (their wills), who believe, who are devout, who turn to God in repentance, who worship (in humility), who travel (for Faith) and fast,"

72:14 sprites (spiritual beings between men and angels)are talking about their submission to God

"Amongst us are some that submit their wills (to God), and some that swerve from justice. Now those who submit their wills - they have sought out (the path) of right conduct:"

Conclusion

If you read this article, leaving your preconceived notions aside, you realize that Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Solomon, Jesus and his disciples, Mohammad, and all other prophets had submitted to God's will (in Islam) and therefore were Muslims. Even Pharaoh, who was following Moses and his followers to the sea, eventually declared his submission to God. So, God has always revealed the same religion (Islam) to all his prophets. His commandments are clear and concise and are in the Torah, the Bible, and the Quran.

So why is it that: Wars have been fought and many men and women have been murdered in the name of religion; atrocities, murders, and crimes have been committed in the name of God and religion. The answer is division. All of these are the result of division in religion. For example, some people believe they are the only true faithful, and everyone else is unfaithful and an infidel. Some religious leaders call the prophet of God a "terrorist". This division and self-prophecy by people or groups of people have been ongoing throughout the times, and is the reason for the conflicts amongst religious people. Corrupt religious, political, and social leaders have used our ignorance and misunderstanding to promote their own agenda. They do not want true Islam and true religion to be known to humanity. They have a vested interest in keeping everyone close minded, superstitious, and ignorant about their religious beliefs (which have the most impact on their way of life).

So wake up to reality, prevent predisposed writing or speeches, biased news, or Islam-o-phobic propaganda from blinding you; stop people from abusing your ignorance; educate yourself about the true religion. Do not judge anyone or any group of people while you are ignorant about the religion.

I hope that this article has cleared some of the misconceptions you might have had regarding Islam, and helped you answer some of the following questions:

Why Islam is getting such a bad wrap in today's world?

Why developed countries' media are promoting Islam as a terrorist ideology?

Why are there so many various sects of religion, where God has commanded that do not make division in religion?

Why is there so much animosity between inter-faith and intra-faith followers of religion?

Why is there so much fanaticism in religion?

Please send your questions or comments by email to info@bakhtiarinejad.com