**The Five Pillars of Islam**

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**Introduction**

The religion Islam has five fundamental rules that all Muslims have to follow in their lives. These are called the pillars of Islam. The five pillars of Islam are: Shahadah, Salat, Sawm, Zakat, and Hajj. As every house is built upon some pillars. Without those the house would not be stable. Same in Islam, without following these five important rules no one can be a true follower of Islam. In this short essay, I will briefly describe what are pillars of Islam and how to follow them.

**Shahadah**

Muslims declare their faith by saying “I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammed (saw) is his messenger”. Allah’s messenger said that “ I came to the earth to tell people that there is no God but Allah.” When you make shahadah you declare that Islam is the best religion. The shahadah must be recited by every muslim in a lifetime. They should also understand the meaning of it. Shahada testifies two things: (a) No one deserves to be worshiped but God (Allah) (b) Muhammad is the last messenger of God (Allah)

**Salah**

Salah is what we do to obey Allah (SAW). He is our lord. There are five times prayer in a day. These are Fajr, Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha. (1) Fazr: You pray Fajr before the sunrise. Two rakats of sunnah before 2 rakats fard. (2) Dhuhr: You pray Zuhr in early afternoon. Four rakats sunnah before prayer 4 rakats fard and 2 rakats sunnah after fard. (3) Asr: You pray Asr at late afternoon. Four rakats sunnah before 4 rakats fard and no sunnahs after fard. (4) Maghrib: You pray Maghrib right after the sunset.Three rakats fard and 2 rakats sunnah. (5) Isha: You pray Isha in dark night time. Four rakats sunnah before 4 rakats fard and 2 rakats sunnah after Here is the way to pray, fist you make udo than make attention and make ahdan if you are praying alone. Say surah fatiha and a another surah then make ruku and say Subhanallah robul alzem. After stand up say sami allah huliman hamida and make sizda and say Subhanallah al-azeem. And get up and say rabbighfirli and go back to sajdah and say “subhaana rabbiyal a'la” and repeat 3 times. After you do that you will get up and say surah fatiha and a short surah. Then make rookot and say “subhanallah rabbiyal azeem” and stand up sami allah huliman hamida then quietly say rabanal hand and make sizda and subhanallah rabi ul azam and get up and say rabbighfirli and make rookot and repeat it last time. After you get up, sit up and say tashahhud and the Doruth Shorif then after you say it. Nod your head to the right then the left and say assalamualaikum wa ra matula each time you nod. Every Friday there is a prayer called Jumah, that when an Imam says a khutba. That counts for 2 rakats for Zuhr and you pray 2 rakat sunnah. Prophet Muhammad (saw) said “Juma prayer is like a hajj for poor people.” Because all community people meet together.

Fasting is when you don’t eat or drink for a whole day. Ramadan is the month of fasting. You feel the pain of people who don’t get food. In Ramadan Allah forgives you. You break your fast at evening at Maghrib time. This is called Iftar. And you eat in early morning that is called suhur. There is a special prayer you pray at night called taraweeh. In Ramadan you give sadaqah to get a lot a rewards from Allah, and you have to pay zakat. Abu Hurairah heard Prophet Muhammad(SAW) say, “all of a person’s deeds are his, except for fasting.” (Sahih al Bukhari). In Ramadan, you make 70 times the reward for doing a regular good thing. In Ramadan there is a night called Lailatul qadr. They are the last 10 odd nights of Ramadan, praying all night during these nights are better than praying 1000 months because the quran was revealed in this month. Laylatul Qadr is directly mentioned in the Quran in surah Al-Qadr. This means “ The Power’’. After Ramadan we celebrate Eid. On Eid, you don’t fast, you celebrate the end of Ramadan.

**Zakat**

Zakat is when you give money to the poor. You can give 2 types of zakat, food or money. Zakat is a mandatory thing for all muslims to do. Zakat means purification, growth, and blessing. People who have a certain amount of money or gold, he or she will have to pay zakat with 2.5% of his or her extra wealth. Allah said in the Quran, “And establish prayer and give zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves – you will find it with Allah; surely Allah sees what you do.” —The Qur’an, 2:110. There are a few kinds of people you have to pay zakat to: the poor or needy people, anyone who has great debt, The wayfarer, someone who is stranded or traveling with few resources. A mediator or someone who pays from personal money to fix or mediate problems among the people, in cause of allah (swt) and last of all Travelers

**Hajj**

Hajj is a special journey to makkah, to the kabah. Every adult that has physical and financial abilities have to make hajj. Hajj is only at the month of Dhul Hijjah. you can do Hajj at different month, that's called umrah. In hajj you throw rocks at a pillar called jamarat. In Hajj you have to wear white clothes for boys and black hijabs for girls. Prophet Muhammed (SAW) said if you do hajj your bad deeds will be erased all. Hajj is done on 8th - 12th month on the islamic calendar. After hajj is done you do something called kurbani and that’s when you slaughter an animal like goat,sheep, cow, or camel. Many people donate their food to the poor and needy. People walk around the Kaaba 7 times. Over 3 million people went to hajj last year, 2016. And more people are going to hajj every year. Mount Arafat is where prophet Muhammad delivered his final message. People visit it to remember it.

**Conclusion:**

In this essay I briefly described the five pillars of Islam and I hope you will like these. Let us pray to Allah (SWT) to give us abilities so that we can follow these. Ameen!

**Reference:**

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