

Belief	Why it is important	How it influences Muslims	Contrasting beliefs	Quotes
Six Articles of Faith Only in Sunni Islam 1. One God 2. Angels 3. Prophets 4. Holy books 5. Afterlife & Day of Judgement 6. Predestination	The most basic summary of what a Sunni Muslim must believe. Influences everything a Sunni Muslim says and does. Guides Sunni Muslims on the right path.	Sunni Muslims will devote their life to Allah and follow His rules. They will live their lives expecting to be questioned on Judgement Day and then sent to Paradise or Hell. They will follow the rules of the Qur'an and the example of Muhammad.	Contrast with the 5 roots of Usul ad Din in Shi'a Islam: Sunni includes angels and holy books but not the imamate.	"The truly good are those who believe in God and the Last Day, in the angels, the scripture and the prophets." Qur'an.
Five Roots of Usul ad-Din Only in Shi'a Islam 1. One God 2. Justice of Allah 3. Prophethood 4. Imamate 5. Day of Resurrection	The most basic summary of what a Shi'a Muslim must believe. Usul ad Din means 'foundations of the faith.' Influence everything they say and do. Support the ten obligatory acts.	Shi'a Muslims will devote their life to Allah and follow His rules. They will live their lives expecting to be questioned on the Day of Resurrection. They will follow the example set by the prophets and the Imams.	Contrast with 6 articles of faith in Sunni Islam: Day of Resurrection and Justice of Allah are closely related to Afterlife and Day of Judgement.	"There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet." Qur'an.
The Nature of God Allah (the Arabic word for God) is believed to be so great that he is beyond human understanding. There are 99 names of Allah, each describing a quality that He has revealed about Himself. Allah is unique and all-powerful.	Allah is the supreme being, worshiped by all Muslims as the creator of everything, the judge of human actions and the source of morals. It is important for Muslims not to see Muhammad as God-like in any way; he is only human and nothing can compare to Allah.	All talents come from Allah, so it is wrong to be arrogant. Muslims should not question Allah's will and should accept that He has a reason for causing suffering.	All Muslims essentially believe the same thing about Allah. There are some qualities of God which contrast to one another: e.g. Immanent and transcendent – He is everywhere and with everyone, but also above and greater than everyone.	"The Most Excellent Names belong to God: use them to call on Him." Qur'an "This is God, your Lord, there is no God but Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him; He is in charge of everything." Qur'an
Angels Discussed more than a hundred times in the Qur'an. <i>Jibril</i> is the archangel who gave the words of the Qur'an to Muhammad.	Angels are messengers from God who help humans to know what God wants them to do. Angels help God to run the world smoothly, for example by recording the	Because they know that angels are recording their actions, Muslims will try to follow Allah's rules. Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an and because the Qur'an was transmitted by	For Sunni Muslims, angels are part of the Six articles of Faith but they are not part of the Shi'a roots of Usul ad-Din.	"Praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and earth, who made angels messengers with two, three, four pairs of wings." Qur'an

<p><i>Mika'il</i> rewards people for their good deeds. He is also in charge of rain, thunder and lightning.</p>	<p>good and bad actions of humans.</p>	<p>angels, all Muslims are influenced by angels.</p>		<p>"Each person has angels before him and behind, watching over him by God's command." Qur'an</p>
<p>Predestination, human freedom and the Day of Judgement Predestination is the idea that God has already decided everything that is going to happen. This doesn't mean that people don't have freedom, but God knows the decisions they will make. These decisions are written down by angels and will be used on the Day of Judgement to determine whether people go to paradise or hell.</p>	<p>Predestination shows that God has control over everything – it confirms that God is all-powerful. At the same time, Muslims are reminded that their decisions are important and they will be judged by God on the Day of Judgement.</p>	<p>Muslims will be careful about the decisions they make. They will be aware that they should live the kind of life that God wants them to live. They may also be accepting of life's challenges because they believe that they are caused by God's will. Many Muslims say 'inshallah' (God willing) after talking about future plans to show that they believe God is in charge of their destiny.</p>	<p>Sunni Muslims believe that God influences what is going to happen – people still have some free will, but ultimately God determines what will happen. Shi'a Muslims believe that God knows the future but that he doesn't actually decide what is going to happen. Humans must make their own decisions and will be held responsible for them.</p>	<p>"Only what God has decreed will happen to us. He is our Master: let the believers put their trust in God." Qur'an</p>
<p>Akhira (life after death) Muslims believe that humans are accountable for their actions. After death, in the grave, they will be asked about their faith by angels. On the Day of Judgement, the world will be transformed into a new world (akhirah) and everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected (brought back to life) and will be judged and sent to either paradise or hell.</p>	<p>Belief in Akhira shows that God is just (fair) and will make up for any hardships on earth with reward in paradise. It shows that people who have done bad things will not get away with them.</p>	<p>It gives Muslims hope for the future and makes it easier to deal with the difficult times in life. It makes Muslims try hard to follow God's rules, for example by practicing the five pillars and by avoiding harming other people.</p>	<p>All Muslims believe in Akhira – it is part of both the six Articles of Faith and the five Roots of Usul ad-Din. Shi'a Muslims believe that the twelfth Imam (al-Madhi) will appear before the Day of Judgement to defeat evil.</p>	<p>Describing paradise: "On couches of well-woven cloth they will sit...there will be any fruit they choose; the meat of any bird they like... a reward for what they used to do." Qur'an Describing hell: "They will dwell amid scorching wind and scalding water in the shadow of black smoke, neither cool nor refreshing." Qur'an</p>
<p>Risalah (prophethood) Prophets are humans whom God has chosen to be his messengers.</p>	<p>Without prophets, Muslims would not know about God. They would not know how God wants them to</p>	<p>Muslims see the prophets as role models and therefore will try to live lives as they did. There are many stories about</p>	<p>All Muslims share the same beliefs about the prophets. If you are asked to give contrasting beliefs,</p>	<p>"Every community is sent a messenger, and when their messenger comes, they will be</p>

<p><i>Adam</i> – the first man, the father of the human race who passed on his knowledge to all other humans.</p> <p><i>Ibrahim</i> – taught people to believe in one God, destroying idols in the temple. Also, willing to sacrifice his son to show his loyalty to God.</p> <p><i>Muhammad</i> – the last prophet, who received the final revelation from God. The first leader of Islam.</p>	<p>behave or how they should worship God.</p> <p>Prophets taught people that there is only one God and guided people to live good lives.</p> <p>Prophets are seen as role models.</p>	<p>Muhammad which show Muslims how to be a good person.</p> <p>The messages of the prophets are written down in holy books, which guide Muslims in their daily lives.</p>	<p>compare two different prophets.</p>	<p>judged justly; they will not be wronged.”</p> <p>Qur’an</p> <p>“Who could be better in religion than those who direct themselves wholly to God, do good, and follow the religion of Ibrahim, who was true in faith?” Qur’an</p>
<p>Holy Books</p> <p>The <i>Qur’an</i> has complete authority and is seen as the perfect word of God as revealed to Muhammad.</p> <p>The <i>Torah</i>, <i>Psalms</i> and <i>Gospel</i> are also holy books, which are mentioned in the Qur’an but they are believed to contain some errors.</p>	<p>They show that God has revealed his message many times throughout history. Muslims need holy books to guide them through their lives.</p> <p>They help to explain the power and beneficence of God.</p> <p>The Qur’an is seen as proof of Muhammad’s prophethood.</p>	<p>They guide Muslims with advice on how to live a good life and to worship God.</p> <p>They help Muslims to understand the history of God’s followers.</p> <p>The Qur’an is seen as a perfect message from God and Muslim children learn Arabic so that they can read it.</p>	<p>Sunni Muslims believe the word of God (which is written in the holy books) is eternal (has always existed) whereas Shi’a Muslims believe that it came into existence when God created the world.</p>	<p>“We sent to you the scripture with the truth, confirming the scriptures that came before it and with final authority over them.”</p>
<p>The Imamate</p> <p>The Imams were the leaders of Islam after Muhammad died. They protected Muslims from enemies, looked after the Qur’an, guided people, kept the Shariah law, had perfect knowledge of Islam and were perfect role models.</p>	<p>It is important because people need divine guidance (advice from God) about how to live their lives. This was provided by the Imams.</p> <p>They ruled justly (fairly) and preserve and maintain the law of God.</p>	<p>The Imams are seen as role models and so Shi’a Muslims will try to live their lives as the Imams lived theirs.</p> <p>They have protected the message in the Qur’an, helping Muslims to live good lives.</p>	<p>Sunni Muslims chose Abu Bakr as their first leader, whereas Shi’a Muslims believe that Ali should have been the first leader. Most Shi’a Muslims believe that there were twelve perfect Imams.</p>	<p>“And of those whom we have created are a people who guide the truth and thereby do justice.” Qur’an</p>