



UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Muslims



- 1.2 billion people
 - one-fifth of humanity
- Albania to Brunei to Cameroon
 - all races
 - only 18% Arab
 - different languages
 - diverse customs
- Islam is their religion

Australian Muslims

- Population 476,300
- 41% born in Australia
- Over 70 countries of origin
- Just under a third of the Muslim population live in Victoria



Victorian Muslims

- 50% aged under 25
- 17% have little or no English
- Median income for Muslims with postgraduate degree is \$607/wk compared to \$1159 for the overall population with same qualifications

(2006 Census)

Beliefs

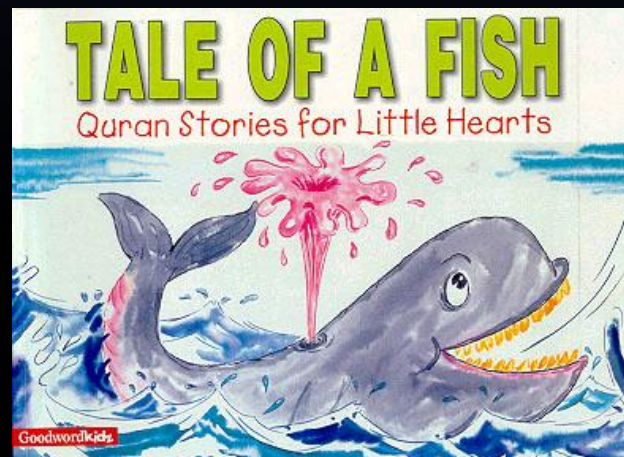
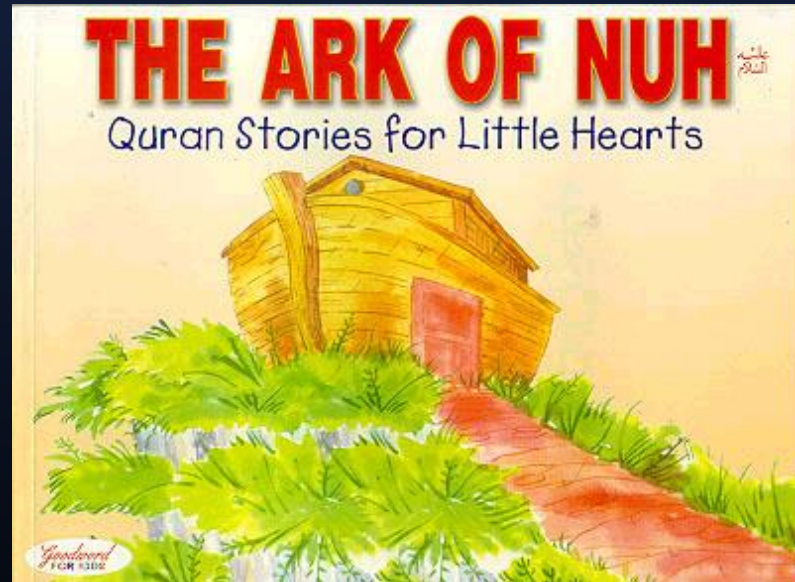


- One God
- Angels
- Holy Books
 - Torah
 - Psalms
 - Gospel
 - Quran



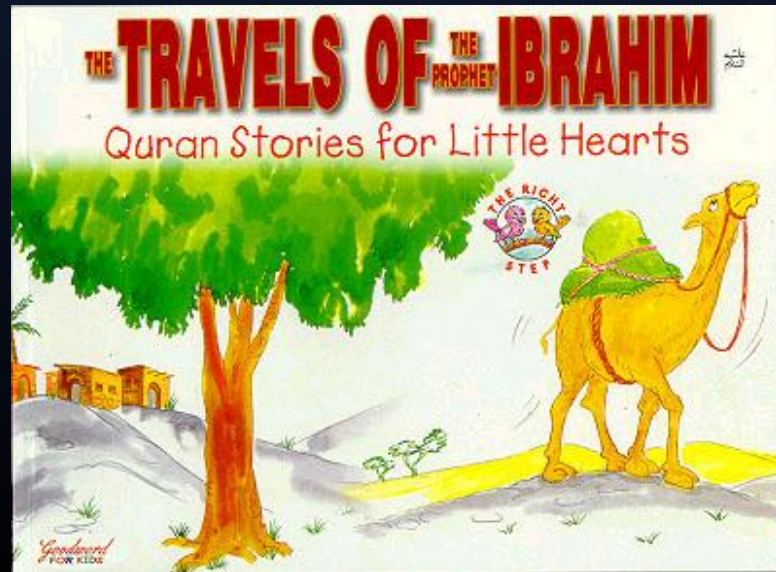
Prophets

- Adam
- Noah (*Nuh*)
- Joseph (*Yusuf*)
- Jonah (*Yunus*)
- David (*Dawud*)
- Solomon (*Sulaiman*)



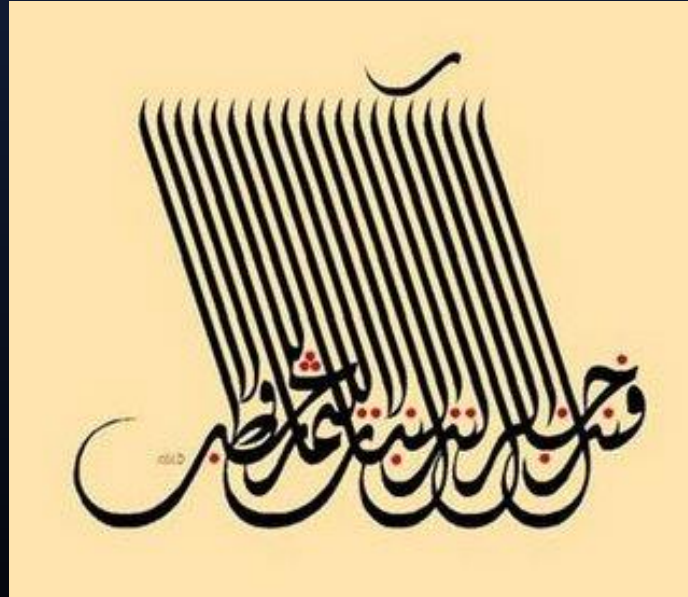
Prophets

- Abraham (*Ibrahim*)
- Moses (*Musa*)
- Jesus (*Isa*)
- John (*Yahya*)
- Muhammad



Peace be upon them all

Beliefs



- Day of Judgement & Hereafter
- God's foreknowledge

Five pillars of Islam

- 1. Declaration of faith:
“ There is no God but God, and Muhammad is His messenger”



- 2. Prayer
- 3. Fasting in Ramadan
- 4. Charity
- 5. Pilgrimage to Mecca

Prayer



- Five times daily prayers
- Duty for adult males and females
- Before prayer, washing is performed
- Pray facing the Ka'bah in Mecca

Fasting

- Ramadan, an Islamic lunar month
- No food or drink from dawn to dusk
- Children, sick, elderly, pregnant and lactating women exempt



Fasting

- After a month of fasting in Ramadan, Muslims celebrate a festival called *Eid*



Charity (Zakat)

- 2.5% of annual savings are given to the poor
- Only a requirement for those who have a minimum of \$1000 saved up for one year



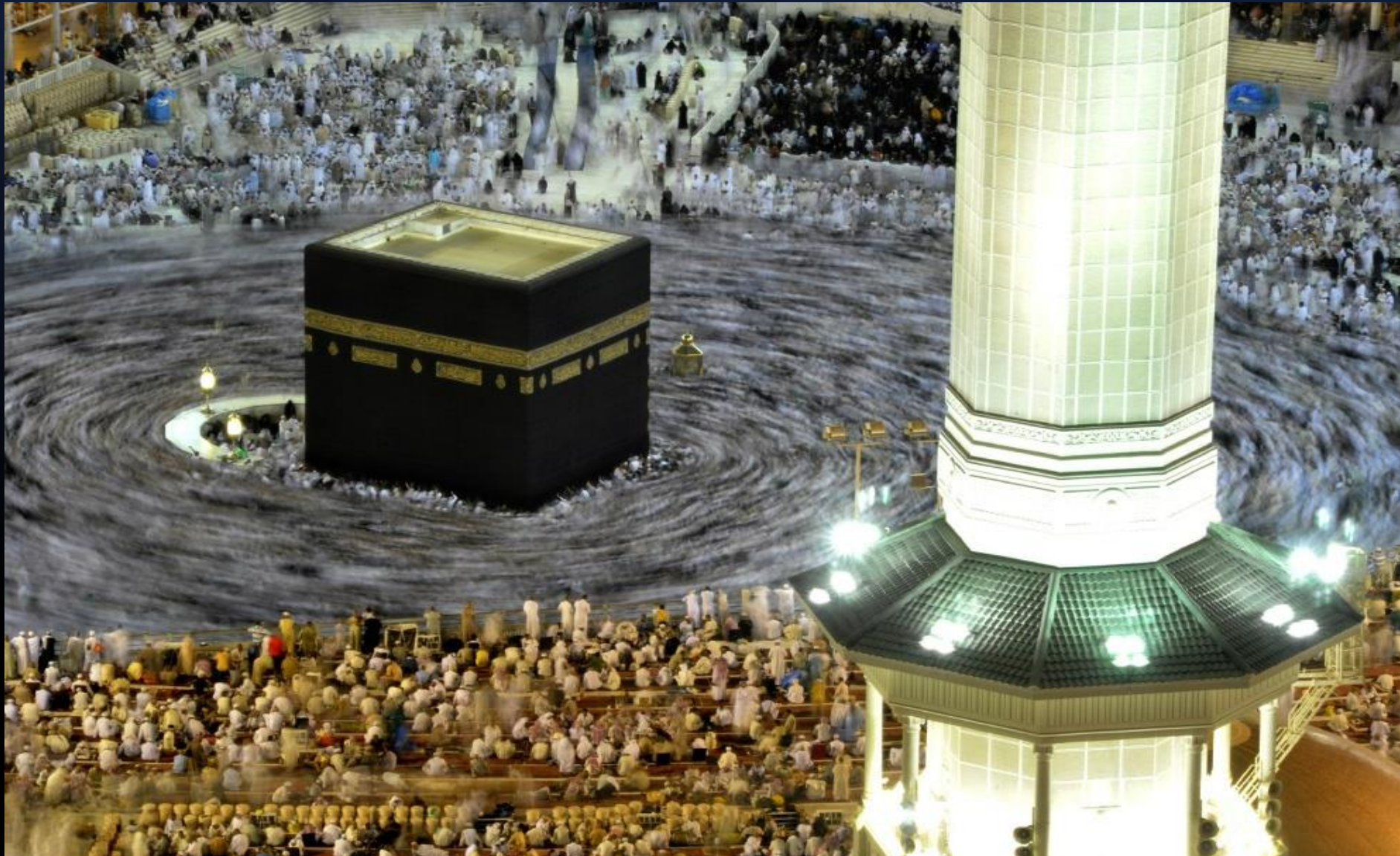
Pilgrimage to Mecca

- Once in a life time
- Only if financially and physically able



- Origins from Prophet Abraham and wife Hajar
- Human equality: class, race, gender

Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca



Women in Islam



Constable Maha *Sukkar*



Reasons for negative stereotypes

- Cultural practices
- Patriarchal Interpretations
- Lack of practice of true teachings
- Media



*“ For believing men and women,
For devout men and women,
For truthful men and women
For men and women who are patient
For men and women who humble
themselves
For men and women who give in
charity
For them God has prepared
forgiveness and a great reward ”*

Quran 33:35

Manal Chawk a lawyer and Marathon runner

Women in Islam

- “Paradise lies at the feet of Mothers”
... Saying of Prophet Muhammad





“Seeking knowledge is compulsory for every male and female.”

... Saying of Prophet Muhammad



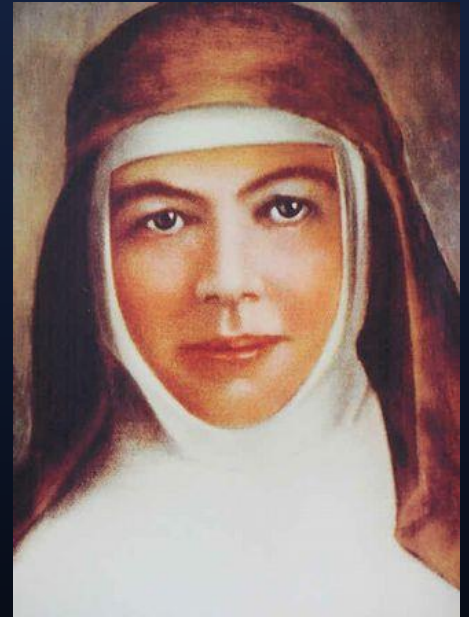
Social Justice in Islam 1400 years ago

“ There is no merit of an Arab over a non-Arab, nor of a white over a black person, or of a male over a female, only God-conscious people merit a preference with God ”

... Saying of Prophet Muhammad

Dress Code

- Males and females have a dress code
- Statement of Faith
(nuns and orthodox Jewish women similar)
- Not required at home in presence of relatives





Hijab shouldn't be restrictive



Dress Code

- Self empowering
- Should be an act of choice
- Most challenging aspect is overcoming stereotypes





The great British burkini boom ... and thanks to Nigella, it's not just Muslim women buying them

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2276313/The-great-British-burkini-boom---thanks-Nigella-just-Muslim-women-buying-them.html>

Islamic teachings

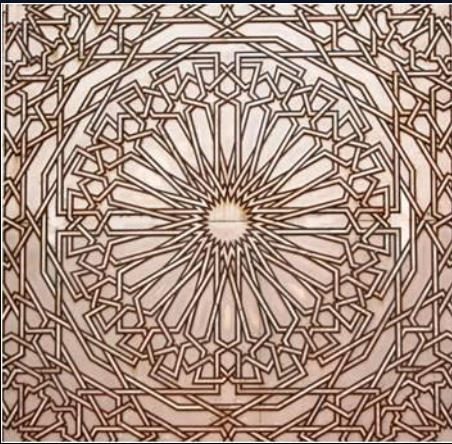
Quran 5:32

“Whoever kills an innocent person, it is as if they have killed the whole of humanity.”



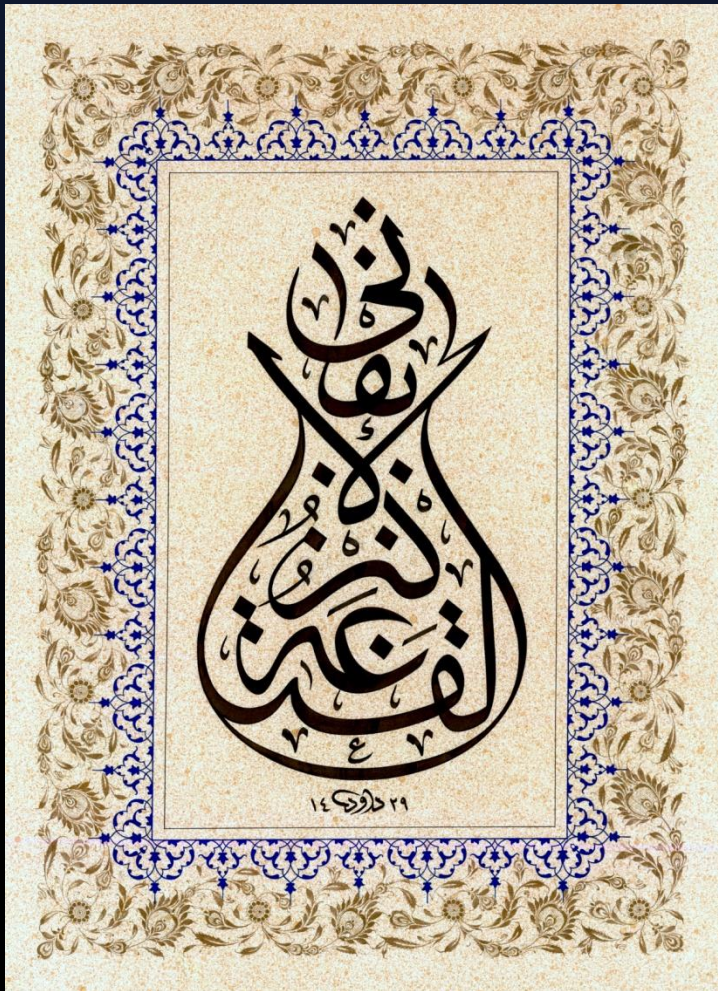
Quran 41:34 “Repel evil with good and you will turn an enemy into a friend.”

Islamic teachings



- “God is gentle and loves gentleness.”
- “Whoever does not show mercy on others, God will not show mercy on them.”
- “No-one has faith unless they love for others what they love for themselves.”

Islam & Other Religions



“Truly those who have faith, as well as those who are Jews, and the Christians.. all who believe in God and the Last Day, and do righteous deeds, shall have their reward with their Sustainer. They need have no fear, neither shall they grieve.”

... Quran 2:62

Islam & Other Religions

“O people. We have created you from one male and one female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may get to know one another.” ... Quran 49:13



Dealing with Muslim Clients

- Cultural practices that exist in 'so called' Muslim countries often contradict Islamic teachings
- Muslims are not a homogenous group; they are extremely diverse
- Treat each person as an individual

Dealing with Muslims

- Some Muslims may feel uncomfortable shaking hands with the opposite sex
- Some Muslim women may feel uncomfortable being alone in the house with a worker from the opposite sex
- Some Muslims will avoid sustained eye contact with a member of the opposite sex; this is not a sign of disrespect
- Muslim women may take some time to dress appropriately before answering the door

Dealing with Muslims

- The Muslim holy day is Friday- lunchtime sermon at mosque
- Month of Ramadan commences 29th of June 2014; concludes with celebration (Eid) 29th of July 2014
- Ramadan moves 10 days earlier each year
- Two Muslim festivals; second festival is 2 months ten days after the first (ICV will provide these dates)

Considerations for home visits

- Many Muslims will request shoes are removed prior to entry
- This is often not possible due to OHS requirements
- Hospital slippers are a good option
- Many Muslims who are ill or bedridden will perform their daily prayers while in bed
- This will require a few minutes of privacy
- Many Muslims will use the term InshaAllaa 'God willing' when speaking about future events

Final thought



- Don't assume a Muslim's behaviour is due to their religion
- It may be their culture, local customs, upbringing, or simply their personality type
- Preservation of life overrides every Islamic rule



Muslim, Hindu, Chinese, African and Australian values.

Leung

Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV)

Questions?

www.icv.org.au

