

*Registration No:* **B.A L.L.B/1-20/M 016**

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*Title of Assignment:* **Describe the Fundamental Elements of Islam, Write down each elements in detail under the order of Quran and Sunnah.**

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### **FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF ISLAM:**

Muslims believe that the Quran was orally revealed by God to the final prophet, Muhammad, through the archangel Gabriel (*Jibril*), incrementally over a period of some 23 years, beginning in the month of Ramadan, when Muhammad was 40; and concluding in 632, the year of his death. Muslims regard the Quran as Muhammad's most important miracle; a proof of his prophethood and the culmination of a series of divine messages starting with those revealed to Adam, including the *Tawrah* (Torah), the *Zabur* ("Psalms") and the *Injil* ("Gospel"). The word *Quran* occurs some 70 times in the text itself, and other names and words are also said to refer to the Quran.

The Quran is thought by Muslims to be not simply divinely inspired, but the literal word of God. Muhammad did not write it as he did not know how to write. According to tradition, several of Muhammad's companions served as scribes, recording the revelations Shortly after the prophet's death, the Quran was compiled by the companions, who had written down or memorized parts of it. Caliph Uthman established a standard version, now known as the Uthmanic codex, which is

generally considered the archetype of the Quran known today. There are, however, variant readings, with mostly minor differences in meaning.

The Quran assumes familiarity with major narratives recounted in the Biblical and apocryphal scriptures. It summarizes some, dwells at length on others and, in some cases, presents alternative accounts and interpretations of events. The Quran describes itself as a book of guidance for mankind. It sometimes offers detailed accounts of specific historical events, and it often emphasizes the moral significance of an event over its narrative sequence. Supplementing the Quran with explanations for some cryptic Quranic narratives, and rulings that also provide the basis for *sharia* (Islamic law) in most denominations of Islam, are *hadiths*—oral and written traditions believed to describe words and actions of Muhammad. During prayers, the Quran is recited only in Arabic.

Someone who has memorized the entire Quran is called a *hafiz* ('memorizer'). An *ayah* (Quranic verse) is sometimes recited with a special kind of elocution reserved for this purpose, called *tajwid*. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims typically complete the recitation of the whole Quran during *tarawih* prayers. In order to extrapolate the meaning of a particular Quranic verse, most Muslims rely on exegesis, or commentary (*tafsir*).

The word *qur'ān* appears about 70 times in the Quran itself, assuming various meanings. It is a verbal noun (*maṣḍar*) of the Arabic verb *qara'a* (قرأ) meaning 'he read' or 'he recited'. The Syriac equivalent is *qeryānā* (ܩܪܝܢܐ), which refers to 'scripture reading' or 'lesson'. While some Western scholars consider the word to be derived from the Syriac, the majority of Muslim authorities hold the origin of the word is *qara'a* itself. Regardless, it had become an Arabic term by Muhammad's lifetime. An important meaning of the word is the 'act of reciting', as reflected in an early Quranic passage: "It is for Us to collect it and to recite it (*qur'ānahu*).

Islamic tradition relates that Muhammad received his first revelation in the Cave of Hira during one of his isolated retreats to the mountains. Thereafter, he received revelations over a period of 23 years. According to *hadith* and Muslim history, after Muhammad immigrated to Medina and formed an independent Muslim community, he ordered many of his companions to recite the Quran and to learn and teach the laws, which were revealed daily. It is related that some of the Quraysh who were taken prisoners at the Battle of Badr regained their freedom after they had taught some of the Muslims the simple writing of the time. Thus a group of Muslims gradually became literate. As it was initially spoken, the Quran was recorded on tablets, bones, and the wide, flat ends of date palm fronds. Most suras were in use amongst early Muslims since they are mentioned in numerous sayings by both Sunni and Shia sources, relating Muhammad's use of the Quran as a call to Islam, the making of prayer and the manner of recitation. However, the Quran did not exist in book form at the time of Muhammad's death in 632. There is agreement among scholars that Muhammad himself did not write down the revelation.

### **THE FIVE PILLARS ARE THE CORE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF ISLAM:**

Profession of Faith (*shahada*). The belief that "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God" is central to Islam. This phrase, written in Arabic, is often prominently featured in architecture and a range of objects, including the Qur'an, Islam's holy book of divine revelations.

One becomes a Muslim by reciting this phrase with conviction.

Prayer (*salat*). Muslims pray facing Mecca five times a day: at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and after dark. Prayer includes a recitation of the opening chapter (*sura*) of the Qur'an, and is sometimes performed on a small rug or mat used expressly for this purpose (see image 24).

Muslims can pray individually at any location or together in a mosque, where a leader in prayer (imam) guides the congregation. Men gather in the mosque for the noonday prayer on Friday;

women are welcome but not obliged to participate. After the prayer, a sermon focuses on a passage from the Qur'an, followed by prayers by the imam and a discussion of a particular religious topic.

Alms (*zakat*). In accordance with Islamic law, Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need. Many rulers and wealthy Muslims build mosques, drinking fountains, hospitals, schools, and other institutions both as a religious duty and to secure the blessings associated with charity.

Fasting (*sawm*). During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink. Through this temporary deprivation, they renew their awareness of and gratitude for everything God has provided in their lives—including the Qur'an, which was first revealed during this month. During Ramadan they share the hunger and thirst of the needy as a reminder of the religious duty to help those less fortunate.

Pilgrimage (*hajj*). Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca, in present-day Saudi Arabia. The Ka'ba, a cubical structure covered in black embroidered hangings, is at the center of the Haram Mosque in Mecca. Muslims believe that it is the house Abraham (Ibrahim in Arabic) built for God, and face in its direction (*qibla*) when they pray. Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad, believers from all over the world have gathered around the Ka'ba in Mecca on the eighth and twelfth days of the final month of the Islamic calendar.