

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Six Articles of Faith in Sunni Islam | Five roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam

Key terms

Sacred	Means 'holy' and connected to God.	Scripture	Sacred writings.
Hadith	Collection of sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.	Qur'an	The sacred text of Islam which contains the revelations of Allah to Muhammad.
Kutub	'Revealed' books in Islam.	Imamate	Shi'a belief that all imams should be spiritual descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.
Sunnah	The actions and practices of the Prophet Muhammad.	Nubuwwah	Shi'a Muslims use this term for 'prophethood'.

Key quotes

'Or has he not been informed of what is in the Scripture of Moses, and 'that of' Abraham, who 'perfectly' fulfilled 'his covenant'?'

Qur'an 53:36-37

Key beliefs

Six articles of faith in Sunni Islam	Sunni Muslims hold six central or fundamental beliefs: Allah, Angels (Malaikah), Sacred Books, Risalah (prophethood), Afterlife (Akhirah) and Al-Qadr (Predestination) . These beliefs are recorded in the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad in the Hadith . The Hadith is a collection of the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad and are revered second only in importance to the Qur'an .
Five roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam	Shi'a Muslims hold five roots (principles) as the foundation of the Islam religion: Tawhid (oneness of Allah), Adalat (God's justice), Prophethood (Nubuwwah), Leadership (Imamate) and Resurrection (Qayamat) . Shi'a Muslims believe after the Prophet Muhammad died in 632CE , 12 imams were appointed to guide Muslims, of whom eleven were killed. Shi'a Muslims believe leadership of the Muslim community is from descendants of the Prophet Muhammad's family . The actions of the Prophet Muhammad are recorded in the Sunnah as an example for Muslims to follow.
Sacred texts (Kutub)	Sahifah (scrolls), Injil (Gospels), Tawrat (Torah), Zabur (Psalms) are important revealed and sacred texts but Muslims believe their original meaning has been corrupted. The scrolls are associated with Ibrahim (Abraham), the Torah (contains the Ten Commandments) with Musa (Moses), the Gospels with Isa (Jesus) and the Psalms with Dawud (David) . These sacred texts are believed to contain important revelations for the religion of Islam.

Key connections

How do beliefs about the foundations of faith relate to other areas of your study?

Qur'an, Shahadah, Foundations of Faith, Five Pillars of Sunni Islam

Exam practice

Explain the Five Roots in Usul ad-Din in Shi'a Islam.

(8)