

SPREAD OF ISLAM

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ABSTRACT

One in every five person on this earth firmly believes that the prophet Muhammad is the last messenger of God. Islam, the religion brought/propounded by the prophet Muhammad has become the second largest religion in most European Countries, as also in America and Canada.

Keywords: Messenger of God, Islam, *Prophet Muhammad*.

Introduction

Muslims are found in every part of the world, be it Africa or America, Asia or Europe. They live in the most advanced sprawling megalopolis' as well as in the most primitive nomadic tent, village, hamlet and in the bush. The entire Muslim population all over the world have lived and are living their lives, loving in his footsteps.

A man having faith in Islam is called Muslim. Islam connotes submission, surrender and obedience to Allah. A muslim believes that he has been created by God. He believes in three Lives, Birth and Death and Rebirth on Dooms day – the final day of judgment when his deeds will be accounted for and he will go either to heaven for his good deeds or to the hell for his bad deeds. The Practical part of Islam comprises of the following:

- The Vows (SAHADT) → Sahadat
- The Prayer (SALAT) → Namaz
- The Fasting (SAWN) → Rozaa
- The Alms (ZAKAH) → Khairat
- Pilgrimage (HAZ) → To go to Kaba

The Islam is based on oneness in every walk of life and the rule is for the whole world:-

- Last prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H)
- One book Quran Sharif
- One language Arabic
- One and the same Hadees for all the world over
- One Khane Kaba for pilgrimage
- One Iman during prayer (Namaz)

Islam believes in monotheism and equality for everyone one high or low, rich or poor, king or slave.

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The spread of Islam in the world is rather astonishing. Prophet Mohammad started his struggle for one God and no idolatry from KABA. He went to Madina to get the message of God and the first mosque for collective prayer. He fought battle at Baddar and Ahad and the whole Arab came under the banner of Islam. His four caliphs – Hazardt Abu Bakar, Hazarat Omar, Hazarat Osman and Hazarat Ali carried flag of Islam to Europe, Africa and other corners of the world.

By 12th century the Arabs reached Afghanistan where Buddhism was prevalent religion. The impact of Buddhism on Islam and admixture of Islam and Buddhist culture resulted into the growth of new religious approach - Sufism. Sufism is a clear cut departure from the staunch monotheism of Islam. It advocated some flexibility in Islam and that resulted into its expansion in Hindu and Buddhist countries. Spread of Islam in Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam was a peaceful process not through coercion or war. Indonesia is a country where the population of Muslims are approximately 99% but the freedom fighters of that country did not declare it as Islamic or secular state. Instead they decided to declare Indonesia a state where all religions are equal.

Sri Lanka is a legendary place. Indians feels much attached with the people of Sri Lanka. Buddhism spread here in the very beginning of this religion. In greater part of the world Sri Lanka is known as the 'pearl of Indian necklace'. Muslims in great number, live in Sri Lanka. They are an integral part of Sri Lankan society. Indian, Persian and other Muslims traders settled there. The influx of Muslims from Java and Indonesian region to this Island has contributed much to the Muslim community. It is interesting to note that the Arab traders never ventured to have a war with the local ruler.

The spread of Muslim in Malaysia is simple. They came simply in the guise of traders. They had an intention of amassing wealth and establishing their trades and business. But they had a mission to spread their religion also. For this they employed their supervisory intelligence, cultural manners, affinity, brotherhood to allure the people to join their religion. And they succeeded.

Islam is the dominant religion in Central Asia, Indonesia, Middle East, North Africa and some parts of Asia. Presently the most populous Muslim countries are Indonesia alone(175million) exceeds the combined total in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran, the traditional heartlands of Islam. Beginning in the 1970s and 1980s Islam remerged as a potent political force, associated with both reform and revolution. Islamic Modernism is a movement, attempting to reconcile the Islamic faith with modern values such as democracy, civil rights and progress.

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