

ISLAM Prologue

Islam is a religion of revelation. Its teachings stress the objective disclosure of God to man through prophecy, and in so teaching, differs from religions that

In Islam, God is the sovereign power that creates and sustains the universe. His purposes are inscrutable. He wills both good and evil. "It is not

Islam is based on the Koran, the sum-total of statements made by the Angel Gabriel to Muhammed. "God Most High speaks with this Word, commanding and

Islam: The Way

The word Islam, itself means the divine pattern which God has set down for nature and man. It is to Islam that each man should conform. A two-fold ;

The life situation of the Muslim casts him upon the journey to embracing Islam. Islam was born in the desert where the day-to-day reality of standing

Man is confronted with the awareness that nothing has final significance or meaning. All things pass away, only God endures. without any earthly hope

The Muslim comes to know that he is up against the final truth of life -- that all of life is determined by God. He knows that in Islam his life is c

In renouncing himself and in surrender to God, man discovers he is related to all things. He knows that all people are his brothers. Out of his obed

Muslim: The Adherent

The Muslim's life stance -- submission to God -- is manifested in his religious practices. Muslims call the practices the Five Pillars of Faith, pres

To be a Muslim is to live in the Unremitting Awareness that finally, one stands before nothing other than the power and Mystery of God. "There is no

The Muslim rehearses his unremitting awareness of God through the recitation of the Creed, the first Pillar. The Creed is the declaration that there

To be a Muslim is to live in Constant Remembrance of the reality of God. In the arid setting of the desert, where Islam was born, man could not easil

This constant remembrance is rehearsed in the Second Pillar of Prayer. All the faithful face Mecca five times daily in ritual prayer. They wash, ber

So at this renew to your heart the remembrance of the greatness of Allah, and say 'O the praise of my Lord Most High!' and confirm it by many repetiti

Intentional Submission to the will of God is the Muslim stance. For the Muslim, life is being constantly under the judgment of an alien power. The M

The Muslim rehearses intentional submission in the Fast, the third Pillar. The fast is observed annually during the month of Ramadan. At that time,

To be a Muslim is to live in a state of Obligatory Brotherhood, commissioned by the order of nature itself to treat all men with equity and justice.

The Muslim enacts his obligatory brotherhood through participation in Alms, the fourth Pillar. Those who have been granted material wealth are direct

The fifth Pillar, the Pilgrimage is a dramatic rehearsal of the total experience of Islam. It is the dramatization of the signal events in Muhammed's

From the hour when you first journeyed from your home have you also been journeying away from all sins?" He said, "No." "Then," said Junayd, "Your t

The Pilgrimage unites the people of Islam in that it creates a common set of experiences, a bond, an ordeal, through which they pass together. Yet m

The qualities that shine through to the surface of one who accepts the way of Islam are lucidity, humility, loyalty or steadfastness, and brotherhood.

Epilogue

To continue the dialogue with Islam, it would be helpful to explore in greater depth the practical relation of the mystical path of Sufiism, the Orthodox (Sur