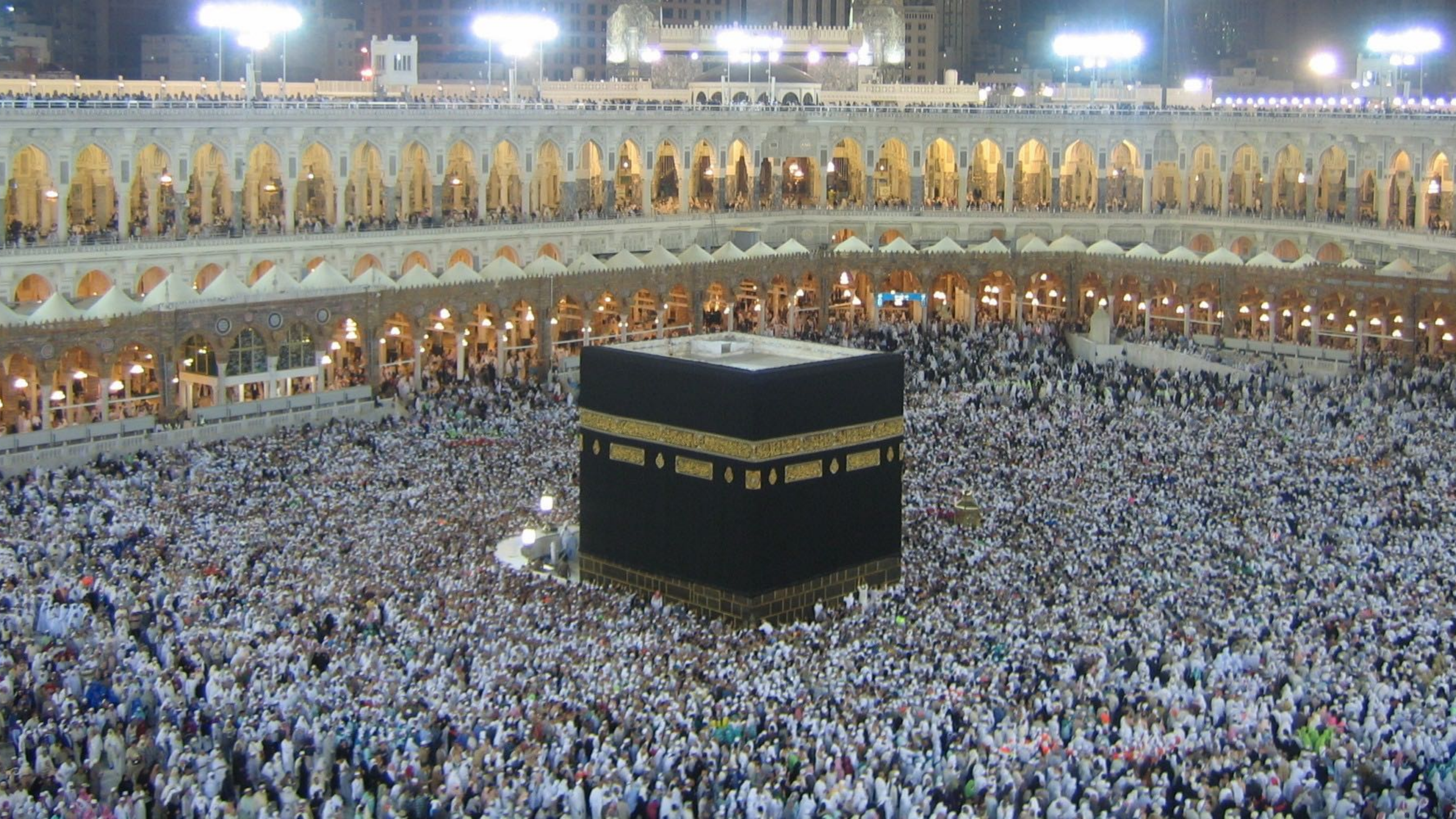


KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S RELIGION

ISLAM



ISLAM IS A VERY COMPLEX TOPIC...WHY?

- Not all Muslims agree to the overall interpretation of the Qur'an
- Not all Muslims agree to which Hadith one should subscribe
- Not all Muslims agree to which history of Muhammed to follow
- The Qur'an manuscripts were burned by the Caliph Uthman and new standardized manuscripts were created, much to the dismay of followers of Muhammed

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IS MAKING IT EVEN MORE COMPLEX, BECAUSE...

- Archeological studies have shown that Mecca was not a large city during 7th century AD.
- In fact, Mecca does not appear on maps until 900 AD.
- The descriptions of the “mother of all cities” in the Qur’an talks about the city in a large valley, with a high side and a low side, surrounded by mountains, and having trees, grapes, and olives. Mecca is in a desert and always has been.
- Mecca was not a major trade center as described in the Qur’an.

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IS MAKING IT EVEN MORE COMPLEX, BECAUSE...

- Mecca is mentioned only once in the Qur'an (S. 48:24)
- The first mention of Mecca in any historical document is in 741 AD.
- The earliest mosques (even in Jerusalem) point elsewhere. Not until 742 AD do they point to Mecca. This is the Qibla, or the direction of prayer

THIS IS VERY NEW INFORMATION AND THEORIZING, USE WITH CAUTION!

- Islamic Studies and Ancient Histories scholars are not dismissing this information, but are treading very carefully and have advised others to do the same
- The caution is due in large part to the repercussions such information could create
- However, the evidence is pointing towards another point of origin other than Mecca for Islam

FOR THE SAKE OF THIS CLASS...

WE WILL USE THE
GENERALLY ACCEPTED
ORIGINS AND ORIGINATORS
OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH-
MUHAMMED AND MECCA



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Born in Mecca around 570 AD
- Father died before Muhammed's birth
- Mother died when he was 6 years old
- Grandfather died when he was 8
- Raised primarily by his uncle, Abu Talib



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Born into the powerful Quraysh tribe
- Debate continues on who he met as a child on travels with his uncle, a trader merchant, but consensus seems to point to a normal childhood
- Married the widow, Khadijah, when he was 25. She was 15 years his senior.



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Between the ages of 25 and 40, became more and more discontented with pagan worship
- He would spend long periods of time in a cave on Mount Hira
- Began spending the time in contemplation and fasting, which led to his first angelic encounter



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Visited by the angel Gabriel in 610 AD while on Mount Hiram
- Ramadan celebrates the receiving of the first revelation of the Qur'an
- Muhammed was badly frightened by this and sought consolation from Khadijah
- About 3 years lapsed between revelations, during which time, Muammed was distraught and considered suicide



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Only a few people, mostly relatives and young adults, began following the prophet
- The pagan Meccans began to persecute the Muslims
- Muhammed's wife, Khadijah, and his uncle, Abu Talib died in 619 AD
- In 621 AD, Muhammed was taken by Gabriel from Mecca to Jerusalem, through the 7 heavens, then to the presence of God (the Night Journey)



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- In 622 AD, Muhammed left for Yathrib with his followers. This is known as the Hijra (migration).
- In Yathrib were three disparate tribes of Jews who were in constant disagreement
- Became “governor” of Yathrib, renamed Madinat al-Nabi, or Medina



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Composed the Charter of Medina, or Constitution of Medina, which established umma, a theocratic community
- There continues to be disagreement in how the Charter includes the Jewish tribes in the protection of the Muslims, if at all



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- In 623, Muhammed had a revelation that permitted the Muslims to defend themselves militarily (S. 22:38-41)
- Muslims begin to raid caravans for booty
- Battle of Badr happened shortly after the revelation, in which the Medina Muslims defeated the much larger Meccan army



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- The victory at Badr was seen as a sign from God of the truthfulness of Islam (S. 8:65)
- Began exterminating groups from Medina that opposed Islam, including one of the major Jewish tribes
- Began his marrying of multiple wives, beginning with A'isha, who was 9 (Muhammed was 53)



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Battle of Uhud, just one year after Badr, was a major defeat for the Muslims
- Muhammed chased the second Jewish tribe out of Medina and seized their property
- 627 AD Seige of Medina, or Battle of the Trench-Meccans attempted to siege Medina, but could not sustain it



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- Believeing that the last remaining Jewish tribe had conspired against the Muslims during the siege, Muhammed ordered the execution of all of the Jewish men, and sold the women and children into slavery
- Muhammed and the Muslims out of Medina engaged in many conquests, increasing their power and fame
- In 628 AD, the Meccans sued for peace (the treaty of Hdaybiah)



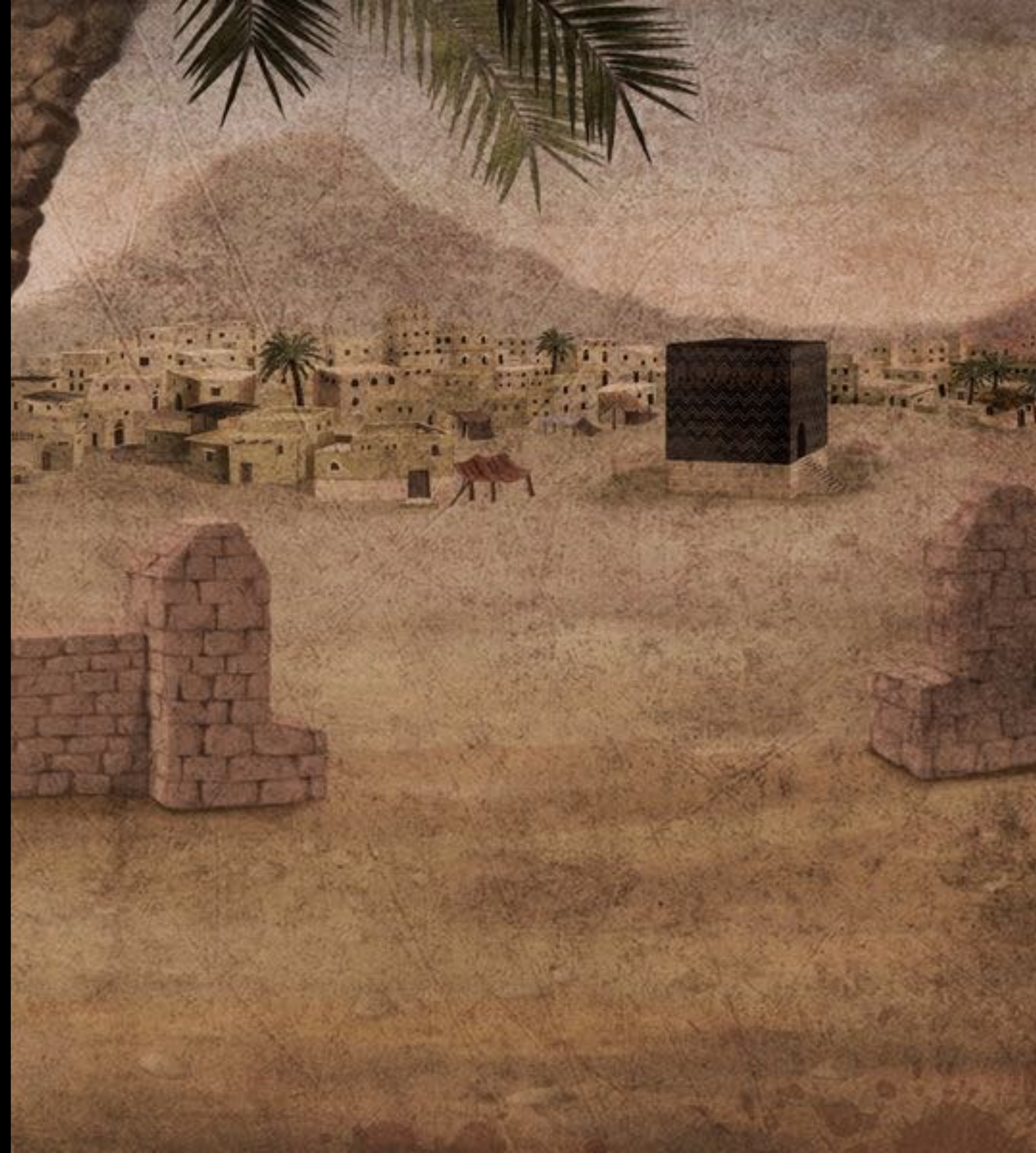
WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- 629 AD Meccan allies attacked Muhammed's allies, thus shattering the peace treaty
- 630 AD Muhammed conquers Mecca fairly peaceably and demonstrates generosity to his former foes as they submit to Islam
- Pagan tribes were obligated to join Islam; Christians and Jews could practice their own religion, but only by paying taxes (jizya)



WHO WAS MUHAMMED?

- By his death in 632 AD, Muhammed had united most of the Arab tribes under the banner of Islam
- Of course, following his death, an immediate squabble ensued to replace Muhammed as leader of Islam



TERMINOLOGY

- Islam-submission
- Muslim-one who submits
- Allah-Arabic for God
- Qur'an-Arabic for "recitation"
- Hadith-Arabic for "collected traditions"
- Caliph-Arabic for "deputy", main leaders of Islam
- Caliphate-an Islamic state

THE HADITH

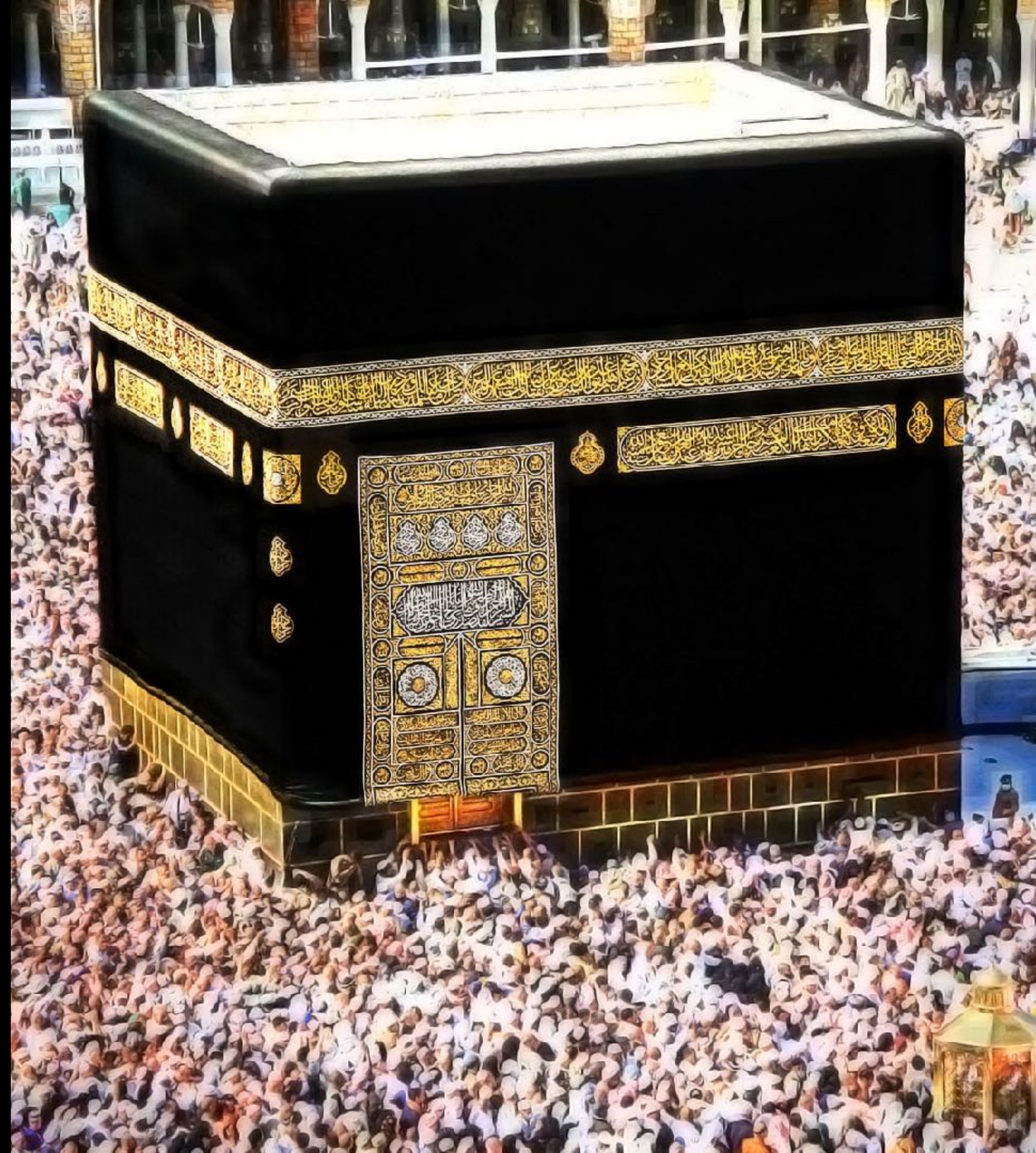
- It is a record of the words and deeds of the prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions. It is the second most important text in Islam next to the Quran. Although not regarded as the spoken Word of God like the Quran, the Hadith is an important source of doctrine, law, and practice.
- Each Hadith consists of two parts: the tradition itself, or matn (for instance, the words of the Prophet) and the isnad (chain of authorities). The isnad indicates the human transmitters through which the tradition was relayed.

THE HADITH

- Muslim scholars soon set about the task of scrutinizing Hadiths and distinguishing those which were sound (sahih), from those that were only good (hasan) or weak (da'if). Hadith criticism was solely based on the authenticity of the isnads, not on a scrutiny of the tradition itself.
- The question was not, "Is this the sort of thing Muhammad might credibly be imagined to have said or done?" but "Is the report that he said or did it well supported in respect of witnesses and transmitters?"

KA'ABA

- "Cube" in Arabic
- Originally built by pagans in 5th Century AD
- Claimed by Muslims to be built by Adam then rebuilt by Abraham. They also believe an exact replica exists in heaven
- The Black Stone, possibly of meteoric origin, is located at one of its outside corners. Also dating from pre-Islamic times as a heavenly relic, this stone is venerated and ritually kissed.



LEADERS (CALIPHS) AFTER MUHAMMED'S DEATH

- Abu Bakr (Aisha's father)-compiled the Qur'an; died of illness at 61
- Umar ibn al-Khattab (father of another of Muhammed's wives)-assassinated by Persians
- 'Uthman ibn 'Affan (Husband of Muhammad's daughters, Ruqayya and later Umm Kulthum)-burned all manuscripts of the Qur'an and rewrote a standardized version; assassinated
- 'Ali ibn Abi-Talib (Muhammad's first cousin)-first Imam of Shi'a and last of the caliphs recognized by Sunni

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUNNI AND SHI'A

- Imams in Sunni are leaders of the congregation
- Imams in Shi'a are the spiritual heads
- The vast majority of Muslims in the world are Sunni
- The majority of Shi'ites live in Iran, ruled by an Ayatollah
- The majority of Shi'ites are "Twelvers"; they follow the line of 12 Imams who claim Ali as an ancestor-the twelfth, Muhammed, disappeared as a child in 878 AD and is expected to return miraculously to his people

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUNNI AND SHI'A

- Sunni scholars say that Imam (or Caliph, as they prefer to say) can be either elected, or nominated by the preceding Caliph, or selected by a committee, or may attempt to gain the power through a military coup
- The Shi'a say that Imam must be appointed by God; that appointment may be known through the declaration of the Prophet or the preceding Imam.
- The Sunni scholars say that Imam can be sinful as he is appointed by other than Allah.
- The Shi'a scholars say that a divinely appointed Imam is sinless and Allah does not grant such position to the sinful
- Sunni believe the Qur'an is uncreated; the Shi'a believe it was created

OTHER SECTS OF ISLAM

- Sufis-Islamic mystics. Sufis go beyond external requirements of the religion to seek a personal experience of God through forms of meditation and spiritual growth. Many conservative Sunni Muslims regard Sufism as a corruption of Islam, although most still regard Sufis as Muslims.
- Baha'is and Ahmadiyyas are 19th-century offshoots of Shi'ite and Sunni Islam, respectively. Bahai's consider themselves the newest of the major world's religions but recognize that historically they originated from Shi'ite Islam in the same way that Christianity originated from Judaism.
- Druze, Alevis, and `Alawis are small, sectarian groups with unorthodox beliefs and practices that split off from Islam. Druze and Alevis do not regard themselves as Muslims and are not considered Muslims by other Muslims. `Alawis (twelver shi'a) have various non-Islamic practices, but debate continues as to whether they should still be considered Muslims.

WHAT ABOUT WAHABBISTS?

- One of the main tenets of Abd al-Wahhab's doctrine has become the key idea of takfir. Under the takfiri doctrine, Abd al-Wahhab and his followers could deem fellow Muslims infidels should they engage in activities that in any way could be said to encroach on the sovereignty of the absolute Authority (that is, the King of Saudi Arabia). Abd al-Wahhab denounced all Muslims who honored the dead, saints, or angels. He held that such sentiments detracted from the complete subservience one must feel towards God, and only God. Wahhabi Islam thus bans any prayer to saints and dead loved ones, pilgrimages to tombs and special mosques, religious festivals celebrating saints, the honoring of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad's birthday, and even prohibits the use of gravestones when burying the dead.

WHAT ABOUT AL-QAEDA?

- Embraces the ideology of Wahabbists and Salafists, thus, they are radically conservative Sunnis. It is more of an action group than a sect, emphasizing political control through force and sharia law.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

- Shahadah: sincerely reciting the Muslim profession of faith.
- Salat: performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day.
- Zakat: paying an alms (or charity) tax to benefit the poor and the needy.
- Sawm: fasting during the month of Ramadan.
- Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca.

DEPARTURE FROM JUDEO-CHRISTIANITY

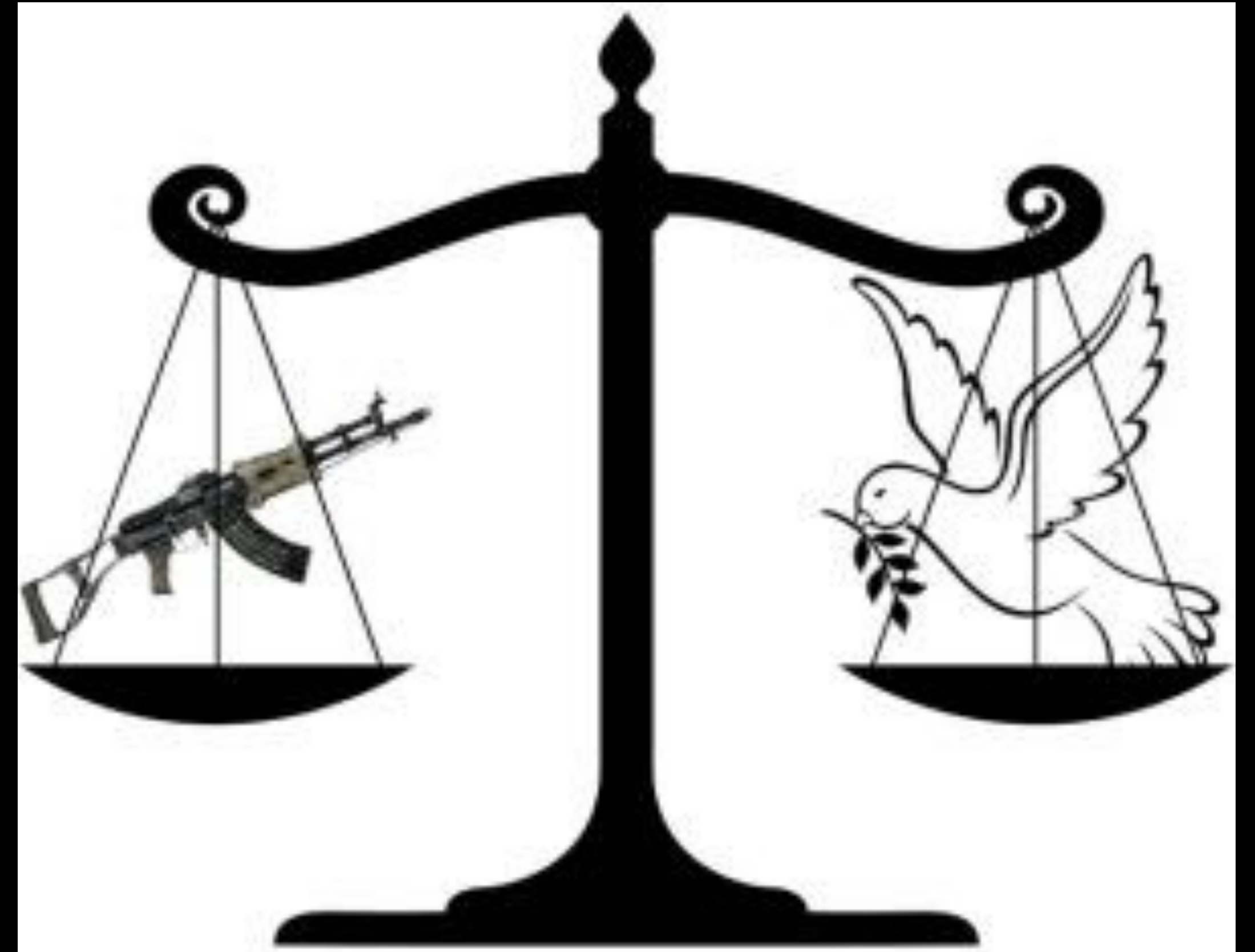
- Muhammed is a prophet in the same manner as Adam, Noah, and Moses
- Jesus ('Isa) was a prophet, but not to the level of Muhammed
- Ishmael was to be sacrificed by Abraham, not Isaac
- The Gospel (injl) has been corrupted and was restored by Muhammed
- Muhammed understood that the Trinity was God the Father, Jesus, and Mary



THREE BIG QUESTIONS

RELIGION OF PEACE OR VIOLENCE?

- Islam's history indicates violence towards non-subscribers to its ideology, but peace to those who do not openly oppose it
- Both the Qur'an and Muhammed's own life reflect this same concept



IS ALLAH THE SAME AS GOD?

- "I had been taught as a young Muslim to worship the God who created Adam and Eve, who rescued Noah from the flood, who promised Abraham a vast progeny, who helped Moses escape Egypt, who made the Virgin Mary great with child, who sent Jesus into the world, who helped the disciples overcome, and who is still sovereign today. Is that not the God of the Bible?" (Nabeel Qureshi)



Allah (swt)

IS ALLAH THE SAME AS GOD?

- "The Quran tells Muslims to say to them, 'our God and your God is One, and unto Him we surrender' (S. 29:46)"
- "Christians believe Jesus is God, but the Quran is so opposed to this belief that it condemns Jesus worshipers to Hell (S. 5:72)"



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IS ALLAH THE SAME AS GOD?

- "According to Jesus, God is our Father, yet the Quran very specifically denies that Allah is a father (S. 112:1-4). In fact, in 5.18, the Quran tells Muslims to rebuke Jews and Christians for calling God their loving Father because humans are just things that God has created."
- "Islam roundly condemns worship of the Trinity (S. 5:73), establishing in contrast its own core principle: Tawhid, the absolute oneness of God."



Allah (swt)

WHAT PROVIDES SALVATION IN ISLAM?

- In Islam, good works cancel bad deeds. Sura 11: 114: "For those things that are good remove those that are evil."
- In Christianity, only through Christ's death and resurrection is the gift of salvation through God's grace freely given.



WHAT PROVIDES SALVATION IN ISLAM?

- Sura 7:8-9: "The scales will be set on that day, equitably. Those whose weights are heavy will be the winners. As for those whose weights are light, they will be the ones who lost their souls, as a consequence of disregarding our revelations, unjustly."



THE QUR'AN

- Contains 114 suras, divided into ayat (verses)
- Each sura has a title that is a word found within the sura, but often have no correlation to the theme of the sura
- The suras are in no chronological or logical order
- Written in poetry and prose



THE QUR'AN

- Appears as speech from God, who mostly speaks in 1st person plural ("We")
- It is considered by Muslims to be uncreated and eternal
- Considered to be proof of its own inspiration due to its incomparable beauty



THE QUR'AN- PROBLEMS

- It is filled with writing that is indicative of oral formulaic tradition
- The Arabic language had to be modified in order to make it intelligible
- If its authorship by an illiterate prophet is indicative of a miracle, then Homer's Illiad would qualify



THE QUR'AN- PROBLEMS

- If it is eternal, how can it reference temporal occurrences, like the Battle of Badr?
- If it is not eternal, how can it be coexistent with God?
- If God is tawhid (absolutely one, n external attributes) how can the Qur'an have existed eternally?



TAWHID-PROBLEMS

- Tawhid does not occur in the Qur'an
- Tawhid would necessitate that God create something in order to love or have any sort of relationship
- Tawhid would necessitate that the Qur'an be a created entity
- Tawhid is a critical component of Islamic theology



ISLAM

DENIAL OF THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

“And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of GOD. In fact, they never killed him, they never crucified him—they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him” (S. 4:157).

CONCLUSIONS

- Islam does not worship the same God
- Islam does not respect Christ as much as they do Muhammed
- The Qur'an is regarded more as a sacred entity than a text
- Muslims must be honest in their appraisal of Muhammed's life if he is to be the perfect representation of a Muslim

