

WHO IS ALLAH

'Allah' is the Arabic name used for 'God'. Many think that Muslims worship a different God than Christians and Jews, however 'Allah' is the same word that Arabic-speaking Christians and Jews use for God. There is only One God. The God in Islam is the God of all true Prophets from Adam, Noah (Nuh), Abraham (Ibraheem), down to Moses (Musa), Jesus (Isa) and Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Them All).

The word 'Allah' was also used for God in the previous scriptures. It is also the word used in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all claim to be 'Abrahamic Faiths' and all of them are also classified as 'monotheistic (believing in One God only) faiths'. Hindu scripture also states belief in the One Supreme God. Hindus believe that the other Gods they pray to are just 'manifestations' or 'incarnations' of the One God.

To clear up a misconception, Muslims do not worship a black cube building in Makkah, known as the Ka'bah. In Islam, the place occupied by the Ka'bah is the geographical, spiritual and maternal centre of the Earth. Muslims all around the world worship Allah (God) facing the direction of the Ka'bah in prayer. This creates a sense of mutual unity in worship.

The word Allah has no plural and no feminine, so it is important to call God by His name 'Allah' as He is unique, because the word God can be changed to Gods, Goddess or Goddesses.

In order to know more about our Creator, Allah (God) informs the creation about Himself through His divine Attributes. Ninety nine of these Attributes are emphasised in Islamic scripture. These are also known as 'The Beautiful Names' of Allah. Examples of these are; The Creator, The Sustainer, The Most High, Knower of the Seen and Unseen, The Sovereign, The Holy, The Giver of Peace, The Powerful, The Mighty, The Most Compassionate, The Most Loving, The Remover of Difficulties, to mention a few.

In some of the closing verses of the Holy Qur'aan, Allah (God) clarifies Himself to the creation in the following verses:

"Say, He is God, the One. God, to whom the creation is dependant (and God is Self-Sufficient). He has no offspring, and nor is He born of anyone. And there is none like Him." [Qur'aan – Ch 112]